

*Hafa Adai!*

# Saipan Tribune

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## OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Should the CNMI government sell or lease out the Mariana House in Washington D.C.?

Let your voice be heard! Go to [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com) to cast your vote.

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Wildlife presentations highlight a Boy Scouts Picnic at the American Memorial Park.

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### Toxic Truck

A state worker made the discovery: A girl dead inside a toxic truck and her brother burned.

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### Probation Term

Bruno Mars had two firsts this week: winning a Grammy and a brush with the law.

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**170 Japanese visitors here for cultural exchange. PAGE 20**

## OPA says CPA contractor non-compliant with settlement deal

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Office of the Public Auditor says a Commonwealth Ports Authority contractor on Rota has been behind payments of \$25,833.14 on a settlement agreement that's interest-free and made without documented justification.

The settlement deal involves unpaid leases on two CPA facilities—the terminal warehouse at West Dock and the warehouse and storage at West Harbor.



Pai

OPA said the reduced monthly payments and the absence of collections for over several months should have prompted CPA management to pursue more stringent measures, or even legal action to enforce collection.

CPA waived interest on the original amount that Rota Terminal and Transfer Co. Inc. or RT&T, owed CPA, totaling \$343,313.88.

OPA said that CPA gave RT&T a settlement discount of \$97,482.68.

See OPA on Page 4

## From 18 to 9

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

True to his word in January, Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan) pre-filed yesterday a legislative initiative reducing by half the number of House of Representatives members from Saipan, from the current 18 to just nine.

There are currently 20 House members. Of this number, Rota and Tinian each have one; the rest, 18, are from Saipan.

The Senate has nine members com-

prising three each from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Palacios said he will formally intro-

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## Foreign workers to 'walk' in opposition to Senate's report

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

Nonresident workers will walk from Kilili Beach to the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe on Saipan on Feb. 24, to show their opposition to a draft Senate recommendation allowing eligible long-term alien workers to apply in 2013 for an immigration status unique to the CNMI.

At 6pm tonight at the Rota Round House, the Senate Committee on Federal Relations and Independent Agencies will hold a public hearing on its draft recommendation to the U.S. Congress on the status of foreign workers.

On Thursday, Feb. 24, the Senate will hold a public hearing on Saipan, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, starting at 6pm. On Feb. 25, a similar hearing will be held on Tinian.

Rabby Syed, president of the United Workers Movement-NMI, called on all nonresident workers yesterday to attend the Senate public hearings.

Syed said UWM acknowledges that the final decision on the immigration sta-

See WORKERS on Page 4



## Slow spending puts Covenant funds at risk



Sablan

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The CNMI could lose all its annual Covenant funding because the money is not being spent quickly enough. President Obama submitted his fiscal year 2012 budget on Monday with language allowing

the Interior secretary to take away infrastructure money from any territory that is slow to spend. The secretary would be empowered to give the money to another territory that is ready to put it to use.

"I have been warning that this could happen," said Congressman

Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan. "The [Obama] administration won't keep supporting CIP money for the CNMI, if the CNMI can't spend it."

The President's budget proposes that if "a territory has a substantial backlog of capital improvement See SPENDING on Page 4

### SAFER, BETTER DOCKS

Three GPPC employees work on the floating docks at the Smiling Cove Marina yesterday afternoon, under a federally funded contract to replace the floating docks with safer and better ones. The new materials are expected to last for at least 50 years and will be more suitable for saltwater.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

See story on Page 8



# Local

**USSP Club** @ 10pm-2am

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**Birthday Shoutout to ROSE**

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## '568 SHEFA checks still pending at Finance'

A total of 568 checks for scholars of the Saipan Higher Educational Financial Assistance are still pending at the Department of Finance, according to administrator Henry Hofschneider.

The number covers recipients for the fall semester of 2010, Hofschneider said during the SHEFA board meeting yesterday.

For the priority field of study program, 303 students have yet to get their grants totaling \$454,500, while 265 scholars last semester are still waiting for their incentive awards, amounting to \$530,000.

The total pending awards amount to \$984,500, Hofschneider said, adding that requests for the checks have been made since December.

In the fall semester of 2010, SHEFA released \$2.282 million for its scholars—more than half of its \$3.1 million annual budget. That left only over \$900,000 for the spring semester, Hofschneider said.

The board has ruled that SHEFA must first fulfill its obligations to scholars in the fall semester before giving out new awards for spring 2011. The board voted yesterday to delay requests for checks of scholars in spring 2011.

There are currently 328 students approved for assistance in spring 2011. This covers off- and on-island scholars, with financial awards totaling \$600,200. Over 600 students applied for assistance this spring semester.

Hofschneider reported that 194 applications have not been reviewed yet due to incomplete documents, which are due on Feb. 28. Approved applications are expected to increase upon completion of the review.

For the 96 denied students, Hofschneider was instructed to provide them specific reasons why they were denied. He said denied applicants have 10 days to appeal the decision to the SHEFA board. *(Moneth Deposa)*

Ex-NMHC accounting clerk not guilty

Superior Court Associate Judge Perry B. Inos acquitted yesterday a former accounting clerk at the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. who was accused of stealing \$700 from NMHC.

Inos found Anne Marie D. Navarette not guilty of theft by failure to make required disposition of funds received, and theft by unlawful taking.

Navarette, 31, cried when the judge announced his verdict. Her mother, who was also in the courtroom, also burst into tears.

Inos, who began the bench trial on Tuesday, said the prosecution had failed to provide evidence of what had happened to the funds or the whereabouts of the money.

He said there was no testimony from Bank of Guam's branch officer in the armored section and the bank branch manager about the whereabouts of the funds between the main vault and the secured vault.

Navarette and her mother said they're very happy with the verdict. They refused to talk further.

Assistant public defender Michael Brown, counsel for Navarette, said there were a lot of loopholes in the case as there was no certainty as to what exactly happened to the missing money.

"The prosecution did a good job. But still fall short in proving the defendant's guilt beyond reasonable doubt," Brown said.

The case arose from an incident on Dec. 24, 2009, when Navarette dropped off the NMHC's night bag at the bank's night depository receptacle. The deposit ticket noted \$1,714 total cash deposit, but upon the bank staff's verification, the bag contained only \$1,014.

The government alleged that Navarette stole the missing \$700. She denied the charge. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

The government alleged that Navarette stole the missing \$700. She denied the charge. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

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**citizen corps**



# Admin: Rota's budget has \$340,000 supposed to pay for nurses' services

» SEAS says only 1 payroll delayed; delegation says since October 2010

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Fitial administration is now reviewing how Rota could be months behind in its payments to Saipan Employment Agency and Services, since the district's budget for fiscal year 2011 includes \$340,000 that is specifically intended for payments of professional services, including nurses and laboratory technicians.

As of yesterday, there's no telling when SEAS could get any payment from the government, officials said. The government has yet to pay SEAS some \$213,000.

SEAS accountant Lorelie Vinas said yesterday that despite the government's non-payment of its obligations to the manpower agency, SEAS has been doing its best to pay the nurses' wages.

"It's not true that we have not been paying our nurses since October. We're delayed by only one payroll," Vinas told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota) said that based on information that the Rota Legislative Delegation got from the Rota Health Center, the center has not been paying SEAS since October and as a result, SEAS

has not been paying its nurses since then.

Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota) said yesterday that the Rota leadership is working with the Fitial administration to be able to make payments to SEAS so that Rota nurses will receive their wages on time.



Santos

Press secretary Angel Demapan said the Fitial administration is currently looking into this situation to determine the cause, given that Section 705(c) of Public Law 17-21—the fiscal year 2011 budget law—appropriated \$340,000 from Rota's budget to pay for professional services for nurses, technicians, and other medical and auxiliary professionals as needed, including one mental health counselor in the amount of \$33,000.

"At this point, there is no decision yet regarding reprogramming of funds as the administration has yet to identify what sources are available in order to reprogram funds," Demapan said.

Rota Mayor Melchor Mendiola said Rota's financial conditions have worsened, making it difficult to meet obligations, including one to SEAS. He said this is why the municipality is asking for assistance from the central government.

Fitial declared a state of emergency for the CNMI in July 2010 to suspend laws and rules and allow the reprogramming of funds to avert a nursing crisis on Rota and Tinian.

Santos said that based on information from the Rota Health Center, the center has not been making payments to SEAS since October 2010 of \$51,000.

In addition, SEAS has not been paid \$119,000 for obligations dating back to April until September 2010, she said.

The remaining \$43,000 is for the unpaid hotel accommodations provided to Rota patients who were referred and accommodated at Paradise Hotel. The hotel owner is the same entity that owns SEAS.

SEAS' Vinas said these estimates are close to actual unpaid obligations to the manpower agency.

The mayor and lawmakers from Rota expressed gratitude to the SEAS nurses for continuing to work at Rota Health Center despite delayed wages.

## DIABETES FACT: Early Diagnosis Saves Lives and Your Eyes!



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disease, as well as many others.

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# PIC ready for 'Race Around the River' challenge

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**  
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REPORTER

All 16 slots have been filled for the first ever Race Around the River challenge of Pacific Islands Club.

Race Around The River is a corporate human duck race challenge that is part of the 2011 Duck Race for Cancer scheduled tomorrow.

Representatives of each company will gear up in a yellow swim cap, duck beak, goggles, lifejacket, and swim fins provided by PIC and make his/her way around PIC's 800-meter lazy river.

Four swimmers will compete in four heats where the top two finishers of each heat will do one more lap around the river.

The winning team will receive a

team building night for 30 persons and two cases of drinks at PIC's latest attraction, the Laser Tag Park.

Participating teams for the Race Around the River are Ideal Signs, Triple J, G4S, Coca-Cola/Foremost, KSPN, Northern Marianas College, NMC College Access Challenge Project, Island Apparel, Pacific Trading Co., IT&E, Saipan Swim Club, Saipan Shipping, Pacific Islands Club Saipan SEA Department, PIC Rooms Division, PIC Guest Relations, and PIC Engineering Department.

Following the Race Around the River is the Duck Race for Cancer, which aims to raise funds to fight cancer in the CNMI.

Plastic ducks worth \$5 each will be sold to compete in a race for a chance

to win the grand prize of \$1,000. Second prize is \$300 while third prize is \$200.

Activities manager Glenn Policare said they have sold more than 1,200 ducks and the number continues to rise as they also sold ducks at the Garapan Street Market last night and they have yet to account other on-island and off-island sales.

"We are confident that we will surpass last year's duck sales," Policare told *Saipan Tribune*.

Policare said they will still be selling ducks at PIC tomorrow from 10am to 12pm and 2pm up until race time at 6pm.

For more information, contact Dennis Tababa at 235-6231 Ext. 5173 or email [sportsmanager@picsaipan.com](mailto:sportsmanager@picsaipan.com).

## PSS registers biggest Mathcourt participants for primary grade

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

A total of 826 private and public school students will take part in tomorrow's penultimate MathCourt competition at Chacha Oceanview Junior High School.

MathCourt coordinator and Dandan Elementary School vice principal Reo Arriola said this marks a record of sorts for the competition in the CNMI.

"The 826 students registered [as of this morning] is the biggest we've ever had since the start of the competition in 2005, when we've been averaging 300 to 400 students per event. It has grown every year, with schools from Tinian and Rota joining

in the past," said Arriola.

He said participants from kindergarten to fifth grade are from eight public schools and seven private schools.

The regional MathCourt competition is usually scheduled in March.

The competition's goal is to measure the mathematical achievement of students at every grade level and award those students showing the highest levels of mastery at each level.

Students will vie for three categories: numbers, Algebra/data statistics and probability, and measurement/geometry.

According to Arriola, there are benefits to all who participate—both students and teachers.

Because questions are derived from PSS' standards and benchmarks, stu-

dents are exposed to the types of questions they will encounter and should master in their respective grade levels. Many schools prepare for the competition by reviewing past lessons.

"Through multiple exposures to the benchmarks resulting in an increased math competency, we are hoping to assist the schools to increase scores on standardized tests such as SAT 10 and SBA," said Arriola.

For teachers, they are exposed to the type of question that can be created for certain benchmarks so they themselves can improve and incorporate ideas and questions from the tests into their curriculum. "That is why we encourage teachers to get involved in proctoring and helping out at MathCourt competitions."

## OPA

From Page 1

"The absence of any written justification for waiving interest will also raise the public's concern on the risk of irregularities," public auditor Mike Pai said in a letter to Rota Legislative Delegation chair Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota), a copy of which was obtained from Capital Hill yesterday.

The delegation had sought OPA's opinion on the settlement deal between CPA and RT&T.

Ayuyu, when asked for comment, said yesterday that Rota lawmakers have yet to decide on the matter.

Some lawmakers wished that the OPA letter had arrived before the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Governmental Investigations held a public hearing on the governor's re-appointments of Joe Lifofoi and Barry Toves to the CPA board of directors on Tuesday, so they could have asked questions about the matter.

RT&T is partly owned by former senator Paterno Hocog, the son of Lifofoi, whose reappointment to the CPA board is likely to be confirmed by the full Senate.

Lifofoi would again represent Saipan on the CPA board, while Toves would again represent Rota on the board, should the Senate confirm their reappointments.

As of Jan. 31, 2011, RT&T has paid \$60,207.85 out of the \$245,831.20.

"RT&T is currently behind in payments by \$25,833.14, since for the 21 months from May 2009 to January 2011, the total payment on the PN [promissory note] should have been

\$86,040.99 (\$4,097.19 x 21)," OPA said.

### Recommendations

OPA made five recommendations on the matter. These include telling CPA that, should it contract another settlement agreement of this type in the future, the CPA management, particularly the board of directors, should document the justification for accepting a settlement at a lesser amount in the minutes of board meetings.

"In essence, this settlement included an accounts receivable write-off of about \$97,000, a transaction that should be authorized by the board through a resolution," the public auditor said.

The OPA chief also said waiving interest on promissory notes should be made in extraordinary circumstances.

"Otherwise, CPA should charge interest based on the prevailing rates in accordance with common business practice. At a time when CPA has to maximize its earnings to attain a required earnings ratio and comply with a bond indenture provision, waiving interest charges may not be in the best interest of the organization," Pai said.

CPA executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero could not be immediately reached for comment.

RT&T defaulted on its two lease agreements with CPA by failing to make payments on its past due accounts for the terminal warehouse at West Dock and warehouse and storage at West Harbor.

CPA attempted to collect from RT&T an unpaid sum of \$340,481.36 in 2008, but was unsuccessful.

CPA issued a notice of default and eviction dated Jan. 26, 2009 to RT&T, but both parties have since met and negotiated an alternative resolution. In May that year, CPA and RT&T officially signed a settlement agreement.

OPA said the settlement agreement is actually a promissory note wherein RT&T will pay CPA a principal sum of \$245,831.20 without interest.

The principal is payable in monthly installment of \$4,097.19 for five years beginning May 1, 2009.

### Best option

OPA concluded that in appearance, the settlement agreement or the promissory note was favorable to RT&T because it was exempted from paying interest and because it was given a settlement discount.

However, based on the justification narrated by the former executive director and based on the discussions recorded in the minutes of the meetings of the CPA board of directors, OPA said there was a consensus that the settlement agreement was the best option for CPA.

CPA adopted the settlement agreement to ensure continuity of stevedoring services for Rota and at the same time would still provide a reasonable amount of revenue.

"The poor economic conditions and the absence of another reliable service provider were also factors that justified the settlement" OPA added.

OPA said its report to the Rota legislative delegation will be subsequently issued as a draft audit report addressed to CPA, and then issued as a final audit report after incorporating CPA's responses.

## WORKERS

From Page 1

tus of long-term nonresidents rests with the U.S. Congress. But he said UWM-NMI wants to make a stand against what he describes as untruths in the draft Senate report.

"The draft Senate report ignored the written testimony by the United Workers Movement, which spoke of our petition with over 7,000 signatures asking for green cards and a pathway to citizenship. We will be resubmitting it," Syed said.

He said nonresidents will assemble at the Kilili Beach on Feb. 24 at 4pm.

At 5pm that day, the group will start walking from Kilili Beach to the Multi-Purpose Center where the Sen-

ate public hearing will be held.

"Please bring signs and written testimony expressing your personal views on status. Copies of your testimony will be sent to the U.S. Congress for consideration," Syed said yesterday.

Senators will change the name of its proposed status for long-term non-resident workers to something that is unique to the CNMI, rather than calling it a "Freely Associated States-like" status that was especially negotiated for citizens of Palau, Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia.

The latest draft recommendation from the CNMI Senate is to allow nonresident workers who have been in the CNMI for at least 10 years by May 2008 to become eligible to apply for a FAS-like status by 2013.

## SPENDING

From Page 1

program funds, the secretary may withhold or redistribute that territory's capital improvement funds for the current fiscal year among the other eligible recipient territories." A substantial backlog is defined as spending less than 50 cents of every \$1 appropriated.

"The Commonwealth is only spending 32 cents of every \$1 we get," Sablan said. "And the problem is getting worse. We used to spend 42 cents of every dollar. Even that isn't very good given all the needs we have for water, and electricity, and school projects."

Besides the threat of having all CIP money taken away, the CNMI is already getting less and less each year because of the slow spending problem.

Next year the CNMI is scheduled to get \$9.4 million—\$3 million less than in 2005.

"Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the CNMI all compete for this money," Sablan said. "The insular area that manages the funds well and spends the money quickly scores higher. The better your score, the more money you get the next year."

"The Interior Department even al-

lowed the Commonwealth to use some of the CIP money to hire more staff to help with the spending backlog," according to Sablan.

But the annual grant keeps dropping. The CNMI won \$11 million in 2010 and \$10 million in 2011. Next year's grant will go down again—to \$9.4 million.

Meanwhile, funding for Guam is going up \$1 million.

### The solution

Sablan said his solution to the problem is to give CIP money—about \$6 million—to the Public School System for a new junior high school.

"PSS is ready to spend the money. They have the technical and professional expertise. I understand they put up Dandan Elementary in about 90 days. So, they should be able to build a new junior high in Koblerville quickly, too."

"That solves two problems at once: the terrible overcrowding at Hopwood and the slow-spending of CIP."

"If we build a new junior high school, immediately our expenditure rate for this year goes up to 60¢ for every dollar," added Sablan. "That could mean a better score in the grant competition and more CIP money for us in 2013."

"It's really a win-win-win." (PR)

## HOUSE

From Page 1

duce House Legislative Initiative 17-4 in today's session.

HLI 17-4 seeks to amend Article II, Section 4 subsections (a), (b) and (c) of the CNMI Constitution, to reduce the number of representatives in the House from Saipan.

Palacios said reducing the size of the House would also result in savings in excess of \$1 million annually.

"These savings would be realized by cutting the present budget by each representative's salary of \$39,500 together with their respective annual budget of \$84,146. This savings of \$1,112,814 would be significant in light of the current economic circumstances," Palacios said in his initiative.

This early, some of his colleagues said they support Palacios' initiative.

Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan) is one of those supporters.

Dela Cruz, however, would like to take it a step further by saying he would also rather have a unicameral legislature for the CNMI, similar to that of Guam.

"Guam has 15 senators that serve a population that's five or six times bigger than our population," he said.

House floor leader George Camacho

(Ind-Saipan) said he supports a reduced number of lawmakers, but what needs to be done right now is to wait for the results of the Census 2010, which is expected to be released this summer.

Camacho said the number of House members is defined by the Constitution, based on the Census.

Palacios said in the initiative's findings that there has been a significant decline in the CNMI population as a whole, particularly on Saipan. The economy has also shrunk.

"Taking the Commonwealth's present economic state into consideration, it is apparent that the CNMI House of Representatives, with its 20 members, is currently too large, given the ratio of members to constituents," Palacios said.

He said no more than nine House members working with the three Saipan senators "would be capable of representing the interests" of the Third Senatorial District.

Some members have also brought up the idea of having a part-time instead of a full-time Legislature, given the shrinking population and bad economy.

House minority leader Diego Benavente (R-Saipan) earlier said U.S. states much bigger than the CNMI have part-time legislatures, wherein lawmakers will only be paid during times when they attend sessions or do actual legislative work.



# Man seeks court's protection from police

A man who is suing the local police for alleged brutality is asking the federal court to stop the defendants from allegedly further harming him.

Quirino G. Adlaon, through counsel Vicente T. Salas, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI Wednesday to issue an order for injunctive relief that would prevent the defendants from allegedly depriving him of his constitutional right to due process. Adlaon is also demanding unspecified damages, attorney's fees, and court costs.

Adlaon is suing corrections officer Jesse Reyes Babauta for allegedly assaulting him in an attack that knocked his teeth loose.

He is also suing former Corrections commissioner Dolores San Nicolas Aldan, former Corrections director Gregory F. Castro, police commissioner Santiago F. Tudela, former police officer Patrick Maanao, police officers Jesse Cepeda and Roque Camacho, and the departments of Corrections and Public Safety.

Adlaon is accusing the defendants of deprivation of due process, assault and battery resulting in serious bodily injury, and intentional infliction of emotional distress.

Salas states in the complaint

that Adlaon was pulled over by then police officer Maanao and an unknown police officer on Jan. 22, 2009, on Beach Road allegedly for DUI.

Salas said Maanao handcuffed Adlaon and brought him to DPS Central where he was made to undergo three breathalyzer tests and two field sobriety tests. Adlaon passed both tests.

Maanao then allegedly brought Adlaon to Corrections where he was placed in a cell.

Salas said his client was not given a traffic citation for DUI and reckless driving and any other types of offense.

Salas said the first attack happened when Adlaon asked for water from Babauta, who was watching TV on a chair with his feet on a desk.

Babauta first ignored Adlaon but, at his third request, Babauta allegedly stood up, pushed Adlaon against the cell sink, and punched him in the mouth. Babauta also allegedly took a cup of water and splashed its content on Adlaon's face.

Salas said that, on Jan. 23 at 2:30pm, an officer showed up at the cell and took Adlaon to the front office to be released. The officer called then Correc-

tions officer Georgia Cabrera after Adlaon claimed being attacked in his cell.

Correction officers brought Adlaon to the Commonwealth Health Center where a dentist extracted the plaintiff's broken tooth. He was subsequently released from DOC that evening.

Salas said that on Nov. 1, 2009, at 3pm, as Adlaon was sitting outside a friend's house in Chalan Kanoa with some friends, Camacho allegedly handcuffed the plaintiff on charges of speeding and disturbing the peace.

Adlaon was allegedly made to stand handcuffed for more than two hours inside a small room at DOC. Salas said Adlaon was released the next day, but he was never charged for any alleged offenses. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*


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Sincerely,

**Northern Marianas Trades Institute**

## CUC lab passes inspection, gets certified

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. announced yesterday that its water analysis laboratory has passed its annual inspection and was granted full certification by the Division of Environmental Quality.

CUC executive director Abe Utu Malae credits the laboratory's achievement to its regular consultations with DEQ and the hard work of its dedicated personnel, led by lab supervisor Heidi Yelin.

"CUC could use more Heidis. She just quietly gets the work done with her staff without goading or fanfare," said Malae.

CUC was recently informed of the results of the inspection, which was done on Nov. 26, 2010.

DEQ inspections are done every year to ensure that the laboratory abides by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Manual for the Certification of Laboratories Analyzing Drinking Water and the mandates of the CNMI Safe Drinking Water Regulations.

In its report, the DEQ laboratory certification officer described the CUC laboratory as "clean, organized, and well equipped" and the "sampling and analysis, and quality assessment records are neat and well organized." The same report also states that the "laboratory staff are well-experienced and qualified to perform their assigned duties."

Established in 1991, the CUC laboratory got its first certification in November 1991. Each month, the CUC lab tests water samples from three CUC public water systems for total coliform and E. coli bacteria for compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act.

"Throughout the year, we also test all the wells and springs for secondary water quality parameters-hardness or amount of calcium and magnesium, chlorides or level of salts, pH, temperature, conductivity, and total dissolved solids," explained Yelin.

The laboratory also tests wastewater from CUC's two wastewater treatment plants. *(Moneth Deposa)*

## First Bully dog show set tomorrow

All is set for the "Who's the Alpha Dog Bully Show" tomorrow, Feb. 19, from 1pm to 6pm at the Garapan Central Park.

The event, organized by the Marianas Pitbull Alliance and Alpha Dogg Productions, is the first Bully show on island sanctioned by the American Bully Kennel Club, the official worldwide registry for the dog breed created in 1990.

The event will have a \$2 entrance fee which includes a raffle ticket for a chance to win prizes from the show's sponsors: Budweiser, IT&E, Aquarius Beach Hotel, Megavision El Drako Tattoo, Alamo/National Car Rental, J's Restaurant, Paradise

Island Animal Hospital, Power 99, Shell, and Saipan Apparel.

Entrance for children 10 years old and below is free.

MPBA marketing officer Norman Del Rosario said that about 25 American Bullies have already been registered for different classes and categories: Standard Class, Pocket Class, Extra Large Class, Puppy Class, and the Best of Show category which is eligible only for the winners of the other categories.

He said special guests for the event include ABKC representative Randy Haina from Hawaii, David Crisostomo of Irondogs Pitbull Kennels, and Cris Castro of Bullies of Barrigada Heights.

Del Rosario said all MPBA officers are excited about Saturday's event.

"We are positive that there will be a good turnout because lots of people are calling and sending messages on Facebook," del Rosario told *Saipan Tribune*.

Del Rosario encouraged the community to attend the "Who's the Alpha Dog Bully Show" on Saturday, which will feature jumpers for the children to enjoy.

"This is the first in the CNMI; be part of it," del Rosario added.

For more information, contact Del Rosario at 287-2875 or email [mpba670@gmail.com](mailto:mpba670@gmail.com). *(Clarissa V. David)*



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# \$1.266M project replaces marina's docks

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

What was once a Smiling Cove Marina with floating docks that are patched with plywood to cover broken sections will soon become a safer and better facility, thanks to a federally funded

contract totaling \$1.266 million to rehabilitate the floating docks.

Guam Pacific Power Corp., or GPPC, employees have been replacing the dilapidated Styrofoam-lined plastic decks with a sturdier type of material called composite plastic marine-grade decks, with aluminum frame.

The old floaters are also replaced with new ones.

GPPC engineer Dennis Tupaz said yesterday that work on the original contract for the replacement of the floating docks at Docks B to G will be completed by middle of March.

He said an amendment to the original contract calls for the extension of the existing transient or convenient dock at Dock A, and this will be completed sometime in April.

Land and Natural Resources Secretary Ignacio "Ike" Dela Cruz, in a separate interview, said the original contract to GPPC to replace the floating docks was \$1.098 million.

"But because there's still leftover funding, we decided to amend the contract to also extend the transient dock. That's worth \$168,000," Dela Cruz told *Saipan Tribune*.

He said the new materials for the floating docks are supplied by Bluewater Marine and Dock

Specialties out of Hawaii.

Dela Cruz, as well as Bluewater representative Steven Vonboeck, said once the rehabilitation project is completed, the Smiling Cove Marina will have safer, sturdier, wider, and better floating docks.

Back in 2009, DLNR's Smiling Cove Marina manager Roque Santos said some 50 percent of the floating docks at the Smiling Cove Marina are dilapidated or are badly cracked and could cause accidents.

DLNR got some \$2 million in funding from the U.S. Department of the Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service, and some \$1.266 of this was used to pay for the contractor, GPPC to do the actual replacement and extension of the docks.

The new materials are expected to last for at least 50 years and will be more suitable for saltwater.

Smiling Cove Marina has 74 slips or areas where the boats are berthed.

## 2 more allegedly failed to pay \$250K BGRT

Two more companies failed to pay a total of \$250,258.66 in Business Gross Revenue Tax, according to the Department of Finance.

Finance, through collection and remittance branch manager Richard F. Santos, filed Wednesday in the U.S. District Court for the NMI separate notices of

lien against Delta Trading Co. Ltd. and Misamis Construction (Saipan) Inc.

According to Santos in court documents, Delta Trading's total unpaid balance assessment amounts to \$136,655.51, while Misamis Construction owes a total unpaid balance of \$113,603.15.

When asked for comment yesterday, Misamis Construction's operations manager Barrie Ladd admitted owing the tax, but clarified that they already have a payment agreement with Revenue and Tax.

"We have been paying tax at least \$5,000 a month," Ladd added.

He said the primary reason for their failure to pay was that they picked up a lot of bad debts in the last three years particularly in the manpower business.

*Saipan Tribune* tried but failed to contact Delta Trading Co.

Santos said Misamis Construction allegedly failed to pay BGRT in the tax period from 2008 to 2010.

Santos said Delta Trading failed to pay BGRT in the tax period from 2007 to 2009.

Santos stated that notice is given that taxes (including interest and penalties) have been assessed against Delta Trading and Misamis Construction.

Santos said demand for payment of this liability has been made, but it remains unpaid.

"Therefore, there is a lien in favor of the CNMI on all property and rights to property belonging to the taxpayer(s) for the amount of these taxes and any additional penalties, interest, and costs that may accrue," Santos said in the notice.

Finance recently also filed separate tax lien against a law-maker and six companies for allegedly failing to pay BGRT, withholding tax, and bar tax. (Ferdie de la Torre)

## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Feb. 18, 1999

### Tinian govt slashes working time of employees

The Tinian municipal government has started a cutback in man hours of its employees to cope with a tight budget, and may further reduce the working hours if revenue collections continue to drop, Mayor Francisco M. Borja's chief aide said yesterday. Under the most serious cost-cutting steps Borja has taken so far, employees working for the Office of the Mayor have been asked to perform services one hour less than the daily eight hours requirement. William Cing, executive officer for the mayor's office, explained the move was intended to keep some 130 workers employed despite shrinking cash resources.

### CPA defends action to halt sewer project

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is still hoping that the much-delayed \$4.9 million sewer line project would push through despite the refusal of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to shoulder the additional \$175,262 imposed by the contractor. CUC executive director Timothy P. Villagomez maintains that the utilities firm is not responsible for any damages that may have resulted from the actions of the ports authority when it stopped the project on May 8, 1998. Villagomez claimed that under the signed Memorandum of Agreement, CUC shall provide funds and technical assistance for system compatibility. He added that the utilities firm has no intention of accommodating the additional cost.

Feb. 18, 2000

### NMI asked to bare plans once garment sector pulls out

The U.S House of Representatives committee on resources is asking the CNMI Legislature to identify possible industries which the local government intends to pursue when the garment manufacturing sector suffers sharp decline in four years. U.S. House Resources Committee Chair Don Young wrote the CNMI Legislature leadership asking for a detailed information regarding the Commonwealth's plans after the anticipated pullout of Saipan apparel makers beginning 2004. Mr. Young also said the testimony of the delegation from the Northern Marianas during his committee's oversight hearing on the extension of federal immigration and minimum wage laws in the islands was of significant help.

### OPA uncovers excesses in govt per diems

The Office of the Public Auditor has uncovered more questionable government-paid travels as well as erroneous payment of per diem allowances made during the term of former Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio. In a review it conducted on travel documents of 12 departments and autonomous agencies of the government, the OPA discovered excesses in payment of per diems, improperly filled out travel vouchers, questionable travel purpose, unaccounted travel vouchers and incomplete travel authorizations. A review of some 268 travel authorizations compiled by OPA was conducted to provide the government information in implementing austerity measures as well as in rationalizing the implementation of standard travel policy and increase public awareness on the issue.

Feb. 18, 2002

### DPH introduces diabetes screening for those over 30

With 3,019 Northern Marianas Islanders diagnosed with diabetes as of 2001, the Department of Public Health is introducing widespread screening programs. Starting this year it will ask all adults who are at least 30 years of age to undergo glucose screening every year. Dr. Richard Brostrom, medical director for public health, said the planned policy on blood sugar examination would be given to these adults regardless of their reasons for visiting the Commonwealth Health Center. The public health department also aims to find at least 500 previously undiagnosed cases of diabetes in 2002 by offering free glucose tests every month in places like stores and schools.

### DEQ belies new federal grant

The Division of Environmental Quality yesterday said it has not received new funding from the federal government, dismissing earlier reports that quoted Washington Rep. Pete A. Tenorio. Tenorio previously noted that there is an increased fund for the local environmental protection agency in the amount of more than \$1 million. DEQ public information officer Rebecca Snider said this report has caused some employees to speculate about salary increases. "It's misinformation," according to Snider, who said that some employees were asking if they are going to have their respective raises.



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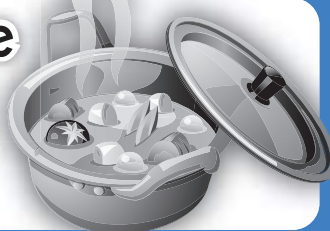
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# Opinion

## Saipan Tribune

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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

## Big Brother moves in

By GLENN GARVIN  
McClatchy Newspapers



Glenn Garvin is a columnist for the Miami Herald, 1 Herald Plaza, Miami, Fla. 33132. Readers may write to him via e-mail at ggarvin@miamiherald.com.

Not content with nationalizing health care, President Obama is now providing home medical care to Americans directly from the White House. His main rule seems to be that a little irony is good for your blood. So it was that last month, even as the president was forthrightly denouncing the Egyptian government for cutting off its citizens' access to big parts of the Internet, his flunkies on Capitol Hill were preparing a bill that would allow Obama to do exactly the same thing here.

Virtually at the same moment Obama was demanding that Egypt stop monkeying with Facebook and Twitter, Maine's imitation-Republican Sen. Susan Collins announced that she plans to reintroduce a bill that died in Congress last year. Collins gave the bill a smiley-face name, the Protecting Cyberspace as a National Asset Act. Internet geeks, about the only people who've noticed what the government is up to, prefer to call it the Kill-Switch Bill, because that's what it would do: Give the president the authority to turn off the Internet whenever he pleases.

The bill (assuming Collins follows through on her announced plan to keep it substantially the same as the one she sponsored previously) would give the president the right to declare "a national cyber emergency" and seize authority over any part of the Internet he decides is "vital" to the "economic security, public health or safety of the United States, any state, or any local government." And just in case that's not broad enough, the bill also allows him to snatch anything the White House deems "appropriate."

But this is America, dammit, so the bill includes safeguards for our liberties. The president can only grab stuff for four months at a time. And while the bill says his designations on which parts of the Internet are "vital" are not subject to judicial review, he will have the advice of an enormous new cyberspace bureaucracy presided over by one of our most civil-liberties-sensitive agencies ... the airport-groppers of Homeland Security.

Collins gets mighty miffed if anybody mentions her bill in the same breath as Egypt. "The steps the Mubarak government took last week to shut down Internet communications in Egypt were, and are, totally wrong," she told reporters. "His actions were clearly designed to limit internal criticisms of his government." President Obama, on the other hand, is a nice guy, so we don't have to worry about it.

But the arguments in favor of the bill put forth by Collins' allies were not entirely reassuring. A staffer on the Senate's Homeland Security committee, for instance, said the bill was necessary in case the White House learned of a cyberattack on "the system that controls the floodgates to the Hoover Dam." That sounds reasonable, unless you know that (1) the Hoover Dam is operated by a government agency, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, so the White House doesn't need any additional authority to protect it, and (2) the computers that control the dam's floodgates aren't connected to the Internet. Then it sounds like a power grab.

Even more ominous was an interview given last year by Collins' supporter, Sen. Joe Lieberman of Connecticut. "We need the capacity for the president to say, Internet Service Provider, we've got to disconnect the American Internet from all traffic coming in from another foreign country," Lieberman told CNN. "Right now, China, the government, can disconnect parts of its Internet in a case of war.

See **BIG BROTHER** on Next Page

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"OF COURSE WE BELIEVE IN LIMITING GOVERNMENT...HOW ELSE WOULD IT FIT IN YOUR BEDROOM?"

## Footloose at PIC

We conclude our footloose series with a complimentary episode from Continental. I had committed myself to a semester of guest lecturing at Shenyang Aerospace University but I needed to change my tourist visa to a working visa. I returned to Saipan and took another crack at the local scenery.

I had hoped that something might force me to beg off out of the commitment. One was to teach at NMC, so we moved dwelling to Finasisu. Our application to two announced positions did not get noticed. PSS froze hiring, but I ran into Craig Garrison of MHS who needed four vice principals. He sought two males to handle discipline and curriculum-instructional designs. "You might want to rethink your options," he said. I got excited over the instruction/curriculum challenge.

At Don Farrell's NMI history book signing, PSS' head honchos were on hand, so we sidled up to one of our PSS HR folks and asked that we be included on the list for MHS. The response was swift. On a phone call from central the following day, I was told that the VP positions required passing the Educational Leadership PRAXIS by BoE's say so. I was not qualified. Wow! It wasn't like I hadn't already passed four PRAXIS tests in the last three years, and I was willing to sign up for another two, if that was what it took to get me into the ranks, but "Sorry, sir" came loud and clear from the other end of the line.

Withdrawing our dwindling Ben Franklins, in our haste we dropped our wallet between the bank and the food store. Trying to check out groceries without a wallet was not allowed, so I ran back to retrace my footsteps, and thank God for the absence of pedestrian traffic, it was still on the sidewalk by Ford Joeten just before the security would have gotten to it on his first round to secure the car dealership premises for the day. Now, were we a horrorscope reader, we might have seen an ominous sign.

The following day, Cape Air called to inform me that my flight was cancelled and I was booked on the next one two hours later, just in time to connect to the Guam-Manila flight. I showed up at the airport at the appointed hour only to be told that my flight was canceled also, and the next one was not until nine hours later.

Willing to pull out the old laptop and a copy of NMC instructor Will Maui's economics textbook, I had enough to do to kill nine hours. The kind folks at the counter did me one better. They got me a room and a Magellan seat to park my *dagan* at one of Pacific Rim's Prime Beach Resorts before heading back to Ada International.

We do not take assignments to PIC lightly. In fact, we normally save our pennies so that we get to watch the \$500/month energetic workers (free housing and food) have fun and entertain the guests at the same time. The horror-scope however, continued; the CO folks forgot to hand me my voucher so we had to go back to the check-in counter, and the concierge failed to notice me struggle with five small pieces of luggage (clothes, boom box, cameras, books, and

By JAIME VERGARA  
Special to the Saipan Tribune



Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.

computer bag each) until I asked for the rolling luggage rack.

But Kumiko at check-in was efficient and got me up to the 4th floor quickly. In her haste, the passkey was not properly activated, and though I know my competence on digital tools is limited, I did not think it required rocket science to insert a piece of plastic card to open a door so I sheepishly ask my Japanese neighbor to call for front desk assist. I was asked to return to the 2nd floor to have the key keyed in. Kumiko was charmingly apologetic.

It's my age. I failed to notice that the room's toilet was two inches off the floor, so I quickly stubbed my toes just where the nerves are tender, and I almost screamed out my barroom expletives but I remembered that I was once a man of the cloth, and there are habits that die hard. So I turned the hot water on instead, and luxuriated in a hot bath.

A dinner came along with the room, as well as the use of a towel were I inclined to take a dip in the pool. I took my time and went to Magellan a good hour before they closed the buffet. Neophyte-looking waiters Chad and Pai were already setting up tables for breakfast and *Kuya* Homer was caressing the piano keyboard to a meditative rendition of "the greatest love of all."

Meanwhile, the rest of the lifeguards not on duty performed an audience-engaging game show titled "Hot Lips" at Charley's cabaret. Skipping the tempt for Lent, I lugged my laptop to the lobby since I could not get a signal in my room. I played my usual social voyeurism.

Ivan and Olga with their compatriots were thawing from Siberia, and Kenichi and Nori were doting on the kids, or Nori wishing she could either be alone with hubby but Ken was busy ogling the blonde Russkyettes, taking homemate for granted, causing Nori to pine away awhile for a lone brief adventure. Eight young girls next to my table emptied the burgundy before I got there, and when they hit the watering spot by the pool, it showed; they danced the night away in a manner that would make the office pool back in Shinjuku blush. A tall young girl with very elevated heels made gracious moves, enough for one of the male band members sporting silver earrings join her with gestures reminiscent of Cleopatra's retinue!

A black cat just ran across in front of the early morn airport shuttle. We're on our way.



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

## Love and War

This is a good week to survey the Love and War battleground, now that the last crumbs from Valentine's candy boxes have been vacuumed from the floor. Valentine's is pretty much the perfect day. It's a big enough deal to be fun, but not heavy enough to be overbearing.

The best item of the week comes from Reuters. Date: February 14, naturally. Place: Hong Kong. Story: Young couple gets married in McDonald's.

It's a great story for a few reasons.

First of all, a McWedding is profoundly sensible. Call me a rebel, but I'm not one to mistake the pomp of ceremony for the significance of the underlying event. Heck, I didn't even go to my own university graduation, not because I didn't like the place, but, to the contrary, I liked it enough to enjoy my own peace with it.

But peace isn't always in the cards, is it? I've seen a lot of \$50,000 marriages followed by \$700,000 divorces. The event horizon from "they do," to "they're on meds," to "they're in court" seems about seven years long, on average, not including occasional sequels for child custody hearings and group therapy sessions.

Such are the hazards of entanglements during the West's epidemic of narcissism. So the concept of launching a marriage in the East with a simple and unpretentious McDonald's wedding has an air of equanimity about it. As the fancy-talkers might say, it is "auspicious."

The second reason I like this story was that I like McDonald's in general, and McDonald's in Hong Kong in particular, or at least the two or three there that I've haunted.

After all, there is a time and place for everything. There's a time

for exotic cuisine, and a time for less ambitious fare. Hong Kong is a lively place, astir with the swirling seas of capitalism, and the golden arches provide a snug harbor. I need that, because I move way too slow for that place.

Incidentally, here's yet another way that muddling your head with economics can spawn eccentric habits: My camera is full of photos I've snapped of McDonald's menu boards. Big Mac prices are a handy index of foreign exchange valuations, or, more precisely, as a measure of how those valuations deviate from parity. I wish I could claim credit for this insight, but it wasn't my idea. The "Big Mac index" was popularized by *The Economist* magazine. Yes, indeed, of all the products they could have chosen, they chose the Big Mac as the measure of international value. How cool is that?

Now here's a lesson to value: Never underestimate unpretentious settings, because that's where people let their guard down. For example, one of my pals, one of Saipan's most happy-go-lucky bachelors, had for years successfully dodged the matrimonial machinations of many lusty maidens. But he was eventually felled in a Winchell's donut shop.

The prevailing theory is that Cupid was on Saipan that day, and had upgraded from arrows to an RPG-7 love-grenade launcher. That's the only thing that could possibly explain it. Anyway, there was the bachelor, standing at the counter ordering his food, and in walked a beautiful Chinese lady and, KABOOM! Cupid scored a direct hit. Marriage soon followed. A platoon of Force Recon laying an L-shaped ambush couldn't have smitten their prey any faster.

The third and best reason I like the Reuters story is that if it wasn't

## Bumps

This past week, I examined three people who came in to see me because of bumps on their eyelids. There are a variety of conditions that can cause bumps on the eyelids, including some life-threatening ones, such as cancer. But the two most common causes are *chalazia* and *styes*. These bumps can be red, painful, and can cause crusting, discharge, and sometimes more serious problems such as infections. Chalazia and stye are a bit different—one has to do with oil, and the other with hair. Let me explain.

The most common cause of a bump on the eyelid is the chalazion. Our eyelid margins have tiny glands that produce a kind of oil that coats and soothes the surface of our eyes. Sometimes these glands can get plugged up, and the oil, instead of flowing out, backs up into the eyelid. It's this backed-up oil that forms a bump. If the bump is just starting, or if it hasn't been there long, you can usually get rid of it by placing warm compresses on your eyelids. I tell my patients to place a washcloth under warm water (not too hot), and then place the warm washcloth over their closed eye for about 10 minutes. Done four times a day, the heat from the washcloth helps the clogged glands open up, and the oil flows out, causing the bump to disappear. The process is like using heat to melt butter. Some people are prone to getting chalazia again and again, so for most

people, I recommend warm compresses four times a day for two weeks, then once a day "forever" to help keep the glands open, the oils flowing, and to prevent new chalazia from forming. There are also medications and special vitamin supplements that can help. In some cases, where the bump doesn't go away with these treatments, it can be removed in about 10 minutes in the office.

The other condition I saw this week was the stye or *hordeolum*. It is caused by an infected eyelash follicle. Bacteria cause the infection, which results in pain, tenderness, and redness of the skin. A fever is rare, but if present, it's a sign that the infection has spread to surrounding tissues, maybe even into the bloodstream, which can be serious and require hospitalization. But in most cases, a localized stye without fever will clear up fairly quickly with antibiotics.

It's important to not squeeze these bumps. Squeezing a chalazion or a stye can cause the inflammation or infection to spread.

About one in four people who develop chalazia don't have any pain or other symptoms. For them, it's just a bump, and the main problem is cosmetic. Do you know what it's like when you have a pimple on your nose, and when people are talking to you, they keep looking at the pimple? That's what a bump on the eyelid can be like. People seem more interested in the bump than in you. So even though a chalazion not be causing pain, most people with these

## Palau in the passing lane

I am sure that not too many people noticed that Delta Air Lines has begun non-stop service from Tokyo to Palau. "We've got too many of our own problems to worry about what Delta does in Palau," some might say. But does it become our issue when at about the same time Delta reduces the number of seats into the CNMI?

For too long we have looked inwards for answers, rather than outside. "This is how we do it." "This is how it's always been." You've all heard these lines before. That's why they say we are insular in our thinking, because back in the day, one island didn't need to think about what or how the neighbor was doing. Unfortunately, with the Internet, jet travel, and too many competing choices for tourists, now we do.

So what's happening in Palau? Well, for starters, they are encouraging foreign investors and have changed how they treat them. This means that more outsiders, i.e. non-Palauans, are putting up establishments alongside locals to give tourists more choices. They have a 99-year leasehold that is clear. Its not 40, 55, 75, 88, it's 99 years. There are no taxes other than a simple GRT percentage of revenues. Their own President even goes out of his way to ensure investors like IP&E have a home in Palau, and that he welcomes them with open arms. It's no wonder that one of our executives came back from a trip there and said, "Palau is abuzz with activity." Heard there is even a big golf development that was going to break ground this year.

Now, think about it for a tourist just looking for a weekend or week in the sun. If you add golf courses to unspoiled lagoons, the world's best diving, new hotels, and let's face it, one of the most

beautiful island groups in the planet, who will be left to come to the CNMI? If DFS sets up shop there, what would be left for us, with our polluted lagoon that is red-flagged constantly, with our decaying infrastructure, our bombed-out garment factories, and our lack of entertainment for our tourists?

Everybody complains about the fact that nothing is happening in the CNMI. Everybody wants government to cut expenses, but you can never cut to grow. To grow your revenues, we need to attract capital and investment from the outside. Money from China, USA, Korea, the Philippines, and Japan needs to wash onto our shores. But this will never happen with the economically suicidal laws we have on the books right now.

So how many of us are actually asking our senators and congressmen to send legislation up to the administration asking for the repeal of Article XII, the privatization of CUC, the introduction of tourist-only gaming in selected hotels, and other things that could revitalize our economy? Not enough is the answer, as lawmakers who want to get re-elected haven't heard the message that people are fed up about "cutting." People want growth. People want changes.

Sure there are many things outside our control like immigration issues. But why don't we once and for all tackle things that are *in* our control? In the '90s, Guam looked up at the CNMI and was jealous of its success. Today, they have left us in the Stone Age. Palau was once upon a time a difficult, out-of-the-way destination, attractive mainly for divers, where only Continental flew into. Now, well I guess we know Delta does too. Soon, Asiana may fly there too, and what happens when more and more Koreans decide they

### By ED STEPHENS

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at [TropicalEd.com](http://TropicalEd.com). Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday.



for McDonald's, I would never have met my Valentine, which is to say, my wife. McDonald's steered events by serving as accidental, though fateful, litmus test of character.

The girlfriend immediately preceding my wife seemed a bit snooty, but those things are hard to measure when someone is trying to ingratiate themselves with you. One day I was craving a Big Mac so I steered into a McDonald's drive through, and, of course, I asked my girlfriend what she wanted to order.

Order McDonald's? She wrinkled her nose in contempt. And her icy response, which would have done Marie Antoinette proud, was: "How plebian."

Well, now, talk about letting your guard down. Sorry, sweetheart, but we are not amused. Scratching Miss Snooty from the roster immediately resulted in a far better replacement.

So it looks to me like we've got some interesting war stories here, a lesson or two, and three happy weddings.

And thus concludes this correspondent's report from the Love and War front.

### By DAVID KHORRAM, M.D.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

David Khorram, M.D., is a board-certified ophthalmologist and medical director of Marianas Eye Institute, hailed by *Retinal Physician Magazine* as "one of the best-equipped eye clinics in the Asia-Pacific region." Dr. Khorram is listed in *Guide to American's Top Ophthalmologists* and is a member of the American Society of Retina Specialists.



bumps ask me to take them off.

Of course, chalazia and styes are not the only cause of eyelid bumps. Some can be serious, like cancer. So if you develop a bump that does not go away in a week or two, have it checked by an eye specialist. If it's painful, that's a good reason to get it checked right away.

*Note: Topics discussed are for example or illustrative purposes only, and are not to be taken as medical or professional advice. Comments or questions? Call Dr. Khorram at 235-9090 or contact him through [www.MarianasEye.com](http://www.MarianasEye.com).*

### By RICKY DELGADO

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Ricky Delgado is the president and chief executive officer of IT&E and IP&E.



like Palau more?

Time to get moving my friends. Please write our legislators and the administration: Ask them to focus on bringing new money into the CNMI so that we can pick ourselves up and move forward.

## BIG BROTHER

From Page 10

We need to have that here, too."






China? China is now our model for balancing civil liberties and national security? China, which has erected what the cyberworld calls the Great Firewall to block Facebook, Twitter and YouTube? What's next? Taking economic advice from North Korea? Looking to Saudi Arabia for leadership on women's suffrage? Bill Gates once said the Internet is the town square for tomorrow's global village. Better make that the Tiananmen Square, Bill.



Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

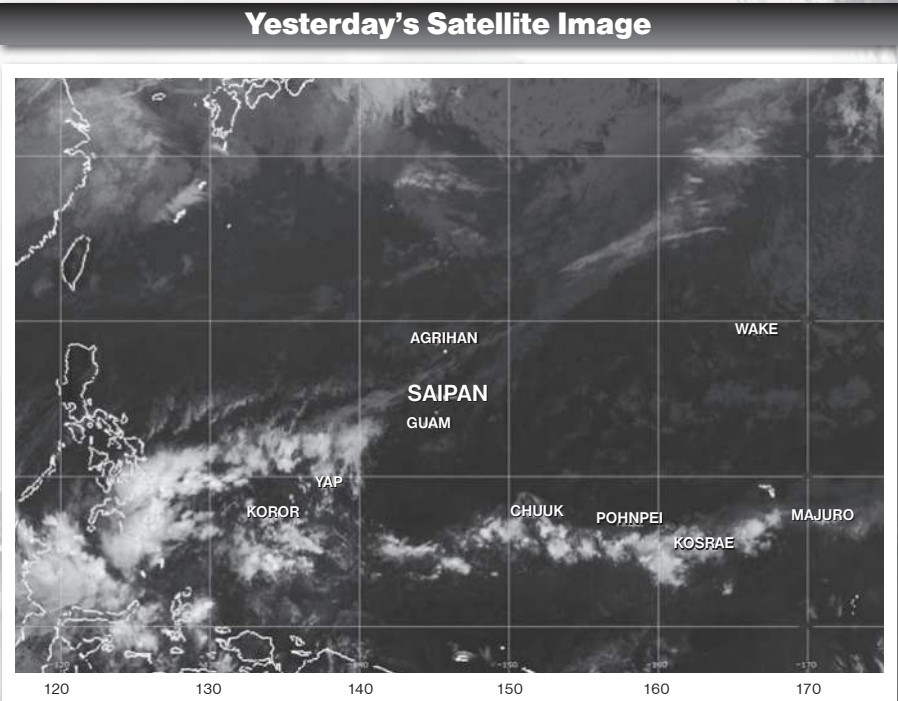
## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°

Micronesia		
Guam and Rota	Sunny	▲ 84 ▼ 77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲ 88 ▼ 77
Yap	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 76
Chuuk	Showers	▲ 83 ▼ 76
Pohnpei	Rain	▲ 82 ▼ 76
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 78
Majuro	Rain	▲ 83 ▼ 77

Around The Globe		
Auckland	Sunny	▲ 73 ▼ 64
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲ 46 ▼ 25
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲ 65 ▼ 63
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 81 ▼ 70
London	Partly Cloudy	▲ 48 ▼ 43
Los Angeles	Showers	▲ 58 ▼ 45
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 89 ▼ 77
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲ 77 ▼ 68
Miami	Sunny	▲ 80 ▼ 62
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲ 56 ▼ 42
Osaka	Showers	▲ 47 ▼ 37
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲ 51 ▼ 40
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲ 50 ▼ 36
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲ 62 ▼ 42
Salem	Ice	▲ 45 ▼ 30
San Francisco	Rain	▲ 56 ▼ 44
Seoul	Sunny	▲ 42 ▼ 26
Tokyo	Rain	▲ 52 ▼ 38
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲ 65 ▼ 47

Tides			
Saipan Harbor			
1:30 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
8:10 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet
1:55 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet
7:18 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.2 Feet



**PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2011**  
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A weak cold front extends from 25N160E to 22N155E then continues southwestward as a shear line past Guam to 11N138E to beyond 130E at 9N. Scattered light showers are occurring along and up to 150 miles northwest of the front and shear line as far southwest as 16N148E further west. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found north of Palau and Yap between 10N and 13N from 130E to 141E. An old but well-defined shear line extends across micronesia from 12N180 to 7N173E to 8N167E to 5N161E to 7N150E to 5N141E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring within about 75 miles either side of this line including Chuuk, Kosrae and Majuro but remaining just south of Pohnpei and Kwajalein. Low-level convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between 3N and 8N from 130E to 141E including Palau.

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	6:41 AM	6:22 PM	Today	6:16 PM	6:09 AM
Saturday	6:40 AM	6:22 PM	Saturday	7:17 PM	6:56 AM
Sunday	6:40 AM	6:22 PM	Sunday	8:18 PM	7:42 AM
Monday	6:39 AM	6:22 PM	Monday	9:19 PM	8:29 AM
Tuesday	6:39 AM	6:23 PM	Tuesday	10:19 PM	9:16 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 16, 2010					
DEPARTURES			ARRIVALS		
<b>SAIPAN-GUAM</b>			<b>GUAM-SAIPAN</b>		
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily	C09316	2:45am 3:35am
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6	C09596	6:35am 7:25am
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09596	7:00am 7:50am
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	C09600	10:05am 10:55am
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09602	1:40pm 2:30pm
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily	C09604	5:00pm 5:50pm
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily	C09606	8:00pm 8:50pm
<b>SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)</b>			<b>NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN</b>		
DL287	6:10am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am 3:05pm
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	1, 3, 4, 5, 6	DL286	7:45pm 12:20am+1
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily	DL288	8:00pm 12:30am+1
<b>SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)</b>			<b>OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN</b>		
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily	OZ120	9:50am 2:20am+1
<b>SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)</b>			<b>BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN</b>		
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7	OZ607	9:10pm 2:20am+1
<b>SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)</b>			<b>SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN</b>		
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1	OZ603	9:00am 2:20pm
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ120	7:10pm 2:20am+1
OZ604	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm 1:00am+1
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via KIX	OZ605	8:10pm 1:30am+1
<b>SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)</b>			<b>SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN</b>		
FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6	FM843	7:15pm 1:50am+1
<b>SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)</b>			<b>BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN</b>		
CA988	3:15am	6:55am	1, 5 Dec 13, 17, 20, 24 & 27 only	CA987	6:40pm 1:55am+1
<b>SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)</b>			<b>MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN</b>		
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ704/603	12:10am 2:20pm
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ716/603	12:30am 2:20pm
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM	DL172/286	8:05am 12:20am+1
DL285/173	6:40am	10:15pm	1, 3, 4, 5, 6 via NRT	C0890/9606	10:55am 8:50pm
C09313/933	7:55am	9:25pm	3 via GUM	OZ702/605	1:10pm 1:00am+1
C09313/893	7:55am	11:00pm	3 via GUM-Palau	OZ702/605	1:10pm 1:30am+1
C09603/933	3:05pm	9:25pm	5 via GUM	PR110/C09596	10:15pm 7:25am+1
C09603/893	3:05pm	11:00pm	5 via GUM-Palau	PR110/C09596	10:15pm 7:50am+1
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN	C0892/9596	10:25pm 7:25am+1
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7	C0892/9596	10:25pm 7:50am+1
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	11:10pm 7:50am+1
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	11:25pm 7:50am+1
<b>SAIPAN-HONG KONG</b>			<b>HONG KONG-SAIPAN</b>		
OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN	OZ724/603	12:30am 2:20pm
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ750/603	1:00am 2:20pm
C09603/909	3:05pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM	OZ722/605	1:30pm 1:00am+1
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:30pm 1:30am+1
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	C0910/9596	11:15pm 7:50am+1
Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; CA: Air China ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)					

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE					
Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD
<b>Guam-Rota</b>			FRE 113	11:40	11:50
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 115	13:00
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>			FRE 117	14:30	14:40
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 119	16:00
<b>Guam-Rota</b>			FRE 121	16:40	16:50
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 123	17:40
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>			FRE 125	18:30	18:40
FRE 400	17:50	18:20	Daily	<b>Tinian-Saipan</b>	
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>			FRE 102	7:05	7:15
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50
<b>Rota-Guam</b>			FRE 106	8:20	8:30
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>			FRE 108	9:00	9:10
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 110	10:00
<b>Rota-Guam</b>			FRE 112	11:05	11:15
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 114	12:00
<b>Saipan-Tinian</b>			FRE 116	13:30	13:40
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 118	14:50
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 120	16:20
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 122	17:00
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 124	18:05
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 126	18:50
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily		

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- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
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## Letters to the Editor

### The rising cost of power

I am writing to register my concern over rising power rates that no one can afford to pay over time.

When a business goes through a difficult time, it is usual for the owners to review expenses before raising prices. Even though we will be paying nearly 50 cents per kilowatt hour in the Commonwealth, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and the rate-setting commission hasn't bothered to conduct a review of utility operations to determine what cuts can be made to improve service and reduce cost to the consumer.

There appears to be a grand plan for the utility but no one has shared it with the general public. The utility proudly announced that its restricted meter customers now exceed 600, as though that is a good thing. From a conservation point of view, it is good. But from a revenue generating side, it is bad.

Neither CUC nor its rating-setting sister agency has disclosed how many hundreds of customers have been permanently disconnected; this also affects cost of power to paying customers.

And more importantly,

there is no accurate record or disclosure of just how much the government agencies are delinquent. This is a continuing problem for paying customers because we are providing a subsidy.

The rating-setting body cannot distance itself from the ill-effects of these policies by simply adopting recommendations from the Georgetown group of consultants. Someone must disclose what the short-term and long-term objectives are. It is clear that someone has charted a course of action but has not shared it with the general public.

Saddling local businesses with ridiculous power rates that seem to coincide with the government's inability to meet

Mobil oil deliveries or pay their own power bills, while expecting them to hire more local employees at higher wages, and pay for all this largesse with fewer customers, makes no sense at all.

If the impact on businesses strains belief, think about what the impact is on the average family in the Commonwealth. How many families are without power and have been without power for

months, maybe years?

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and the rate-setting commission must accept some responsibility for rising power costs and express concern by demanding that more accurate information be furnished to the general public, and requiring more cost-cutting measures at the CUC, immediately. These power costs will defeat any new investment proposal quicker than anything I can think of, un-

less it is a utility investment or it is a business that is not reliant on a heavy use of power at all.

It is one thing for businesses and individuals to pay their fair share of power bills, taxes, and to give a little more when it is needed. It is quite another to balance all these government deficits and shortfalls on the remaining customers on the grid.

**Juan S. Tenorio (Santiago)**  
Airport Road, Dandan

### Genuine care

Losing a pet is not an easy thing. Last year our dog, Meatball, was attacked and poisoned outside of our home in As Lito by thoughtless cowards. As a result, she suffered renal failure and died a month before turning the age of two.

Following the attack, we brought our dog to Paradise Island Animal Hospital with no idea as to the extent of her injuries, but Dr. Tudor discovered and diagnosed them. While we hoped for the best possible outcome for our dog, Dr. Tudor managed our expectations with honesty and compassion.

Meatball had been to Dr. Tudor's office since she was six weeks old and received all of the shots and pills necessary to keep a dog healthy and happy. The staff at Paradise Island Animal Hospital had come to know Meaty during her regular check-ups and saw her grow from a tiny little pup to an 80-lb behemoth.

While receiving treatment for her injuries at Paradise Island Animal Hospital, Meatball received first class care from a staff that went far beyond professional courtesy that you might expect from the only show in town. They were kind. They were caring. They genuinely felt the pain that we were going through at the time and did whatever they could to accommodate us.

Dr. Tudor allowed us to visit our ailing dog after regular hours and on days when his office was closed. While we were charged for the medicine he prescribed and services rendered, Dr. Tudor waived or reduced countless charges during the final couple of weeks of Meatball's life.

After he exhausted every treatment available for our Meaty, short of dialysis, Dr. Tudor offered daily check-ups for Meatball free of charge, provided us with supplies for her final days, and prepared us for what to expect when the inevitable arrived.

When the end finally came, it was heartbreaking. Our dog died in our arms and we were left with a mountain of pain and medical bills. Dr. Tudor and his staff displayed compassion for

both the emotional and financial costs we endured, and for that we will be forever grateful.

It's been almost a year since Meatball lost her fight and as we prepare to welcome a new puppy into our home, we'll gladly be back to the Paradise Island Animal Hospital to ensure the best possible care from people who genuinely do.

To Dr. Tudor and his staff, thank you so much for helping care for our dog, Meatball. You and your staff earned our trust, loyalty and respect and provided much needed support during a very difficult time. Thank you.

**Brad Ruszala**  
**Kathy Pagapular**  
Sadog Tasi, Saipan



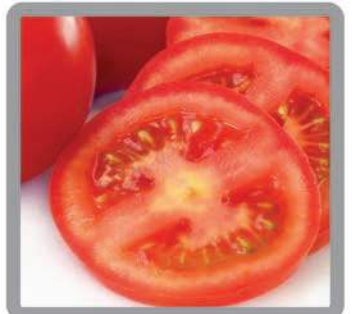
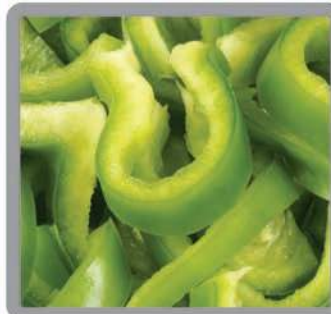
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## Letters to the Editor

### Prime vendor policy

I noticed that our Congressman Kilili is in a position to assist our CNMI farmers in marketing their produce outside of the CNMI. I believe that the first step in helping our farmers is finding solution to the high cost of both air and surface transportation.

My suggestion is to revisit the U.S. military policy and practices that provides for transportation assistance in the form of the military covering that cost.

The second way of helping the farmers is to revisit the "prime vendor" policy to require those vendors to first look at and prioritize local produce available for military consumption before looking at other sources.

If our farmers are assured of the military market, of course, they will produce. Having a prime vendor arrangement is fine but have that prime vendor look for resources within first. Remember, in the past the farmers of the CNMI were supplying the U.S. military so much produce with the military bearing

the cost. They did it then, they should be able to do it now. Having a prime vendor policy is simply for convenience. Can the CNMI farmers also have the assured convenience of supplying agricultural products to the military? After all, if we are going to be impacted by them, why not be impacted positively?

We cannot simply sit down and say that it is military policy and be satisfied with that. Leaders should always say: How about us? Where do we fit in? At least help our farmers by eating what they can provide.

**Frank M. Atalig**  
Sinapalo, Rota

### Shark fin vs CNMI economy/environment

As a citizen of this great Commonwealth, who has been here on the island of Saipan all my life, I am able to follow most of the local politics, especially this shark fin legislation. I want to get straight

to the point and ask this local politician here, especially this long-term congressman who wasted so much precious government time on the shark fins legislation to please stop these nonsense bills and concentrate

on the following critical and urgent concerns that have crippled our island.

1. Concentrate on the economy: We are all hurting, especially the local people. Many have lost their jobs, hours cut

from 80 to 64 or 60 hours. We all have tremendous financial needs and responsibilities such as telephone bills, cable television, CUC (water, power, sewer), car payments, food, and so forth. The gas price is constant-

ly going up. This island needs leaders that can concentrate on how the ailing economy can be jump-started and give our government employees back their 80 hours per payroll.

2. Each Friday we see "beaches with red flags." Our oceans are polluted. On Feb. 4, *Saipan Tribune* reported 20 Saipan beaches red-flagged with samples collected containing excessive concentrations of "fecal indicator" bacteria (enterococci). Marine water quality here is in serious decline and could be in jeopardy. Innocent tourists with their children who swim or frequent our beaches are not informed of these floating bacteria in our water that can be detrimental to their health, and may even cause death.

Concentrate on what our island economy needs, protect our island environment, upgrade our public school system, help NMTI which can educate and train our local people. As our island's economy continues to struggle and our local government grapple with limited budgets, our CNMI needs more reliance on outside investors to jump start our economic engine. (Read and understand the *Tribune* article by Mr. Barry Hirschbein regarding sharks and drunk drivers. It makes a lot of sense and let's introduce another legislation to ban the killing of mosquitoes, snakes, lions, tigers, and so forth. Our ocean is full of other dangerous and venomous organisms that are more deadly than sharks.)

Let's concentrate on our economy, clean our marine environment, look for more federal funding for secondary of tertiary sewage treatment for our Agingan and Sadog Tasi sewage treatment plants so that cleaner wastewater is discharged into our ocean. We are all entitled to a clean and wealthy environment.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion on this very serious and critical issue before the people of the CNMI. Lets go back and go tuna fishing since this is perhaps the easiest work instead of nonsense legislation. Keep Saipan clean and healthy.

**Tony Guerrero**  
Gualo Rai, Saipan

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Feel the difference



# Wildlife presentations highlight Boy Scouts Picnic



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tammy Summers explains to the scouts the importance of conserving and preserving green sea turtles.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Presentations conducted by the Department of Lands and Natural Resources' Division of Fish and Wildlife staff highlighted the Boy Scouts Picnic on Feb. 12 at the American Memorial Park.

Island director Cal Reyes said the scouts learned about brown tree snakes from Joseph Ruak and Marja Noni and learned about green sea turtles from Tammy Summers and Jesse Hapdai.

According to Reyes, the boy

scouts are an important part in the conservation and preservation of green sea turtles as well as the elimination and prevention of brown tree snakes.

"The Boy Scouts Committee thought it's a good opportunity for the boy scouts to learn more about the environment and these species while having fun," Reyes told *Saipan Tribune*.

The Boy Scouts Picnic was part of the celebration of CNMI Boy Scouting Week from Feb. 7 to 13, which also coincided with the commemoration of Boy Scouts of America's 101st

anniversary.

Reyes said that seven cub scout packs and four boy scout troops joined Saturday's festivities.

Participants included Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School Pack 912, Tanapag Elementary School Pack 910 and Troop 910, Garapan-Tan Holdings Pack 902 and Troop 902, Salvation Army Pack 911 and Troop 911, Latter-Day Saints Church Troop 913, Oleai Elementary School Pack 917, William S. Reyes Elementary School Pack 920, and Kagman



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The scouts check out a brown tree snake.

Elementary School Pack 919.

"It was a great scouting week. We had more participants this year. Parents and schools were

also more involved. It was a good opportunity to get together," said Reyes.

Reyes noted that cub scout

opportunity to all the boys who are interested to join the CNMI Boy Scouts of America," Reyes added.

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# Judge: Concern for safety of alleged victims is paramount

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

A federal court judge ruled

Thursday that the results of a DNA analysis conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation does not change the court's con-

cern about suspect Tyron Farley Reyes Fitial's threats against the alleged victims in the case. U.S. District Court for the

NMI designated judge Marilyn L. Huff outlined this reasoning in denying Fitial's fourth motion to release him on bail.

Huff said her findings are based on the previous testimony of an FBI agent concerning the alleged danger to persons and the community and about Fitial's recorded statements threatening a witness.

"After careful consideration, the court finds that no condition or combination of conditions will reasonably assure the safety of any person or the community," she said.

The judge said a serious risk exists that the defendant, a former detention guard, will

attempt to threaten, injure, or intimidate a witness or witnesses.

In Fitial's latest motion for release, defense attorney Joseph Norita Camacho cited that the FBI's DNA test on the second batch of samples in connection with the case against Fitial also produced a questionable conclusion.

Camacho said the FBI Laboratory had concluded that Fitial and the alleged victim may be excluded as being the source of the hair that was obtained from Fitial's vehicle.

Camacho noted that the FBI's DNA test on the first batch of samples also reached

"no conclusion."

Camacho had proposed to release his client to two custodians: the suspect's mother and his common-law wife.

The U.S. government opposed the motion. Assistant U.S. attorney James Benedetto said that Fitial has not presented any new evidence relevant to the issue of his dangerousness that would justify the court re-opening the detention hearing.

The indictment charged the 25-year-old Fitial with deprivation of rights under color of law and enticement of a minor. He allegedly forced three female wards to engage in sex acts.

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Printing funded by the Cooperative Agreement for Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Tracking, Surveillance, and Integration.

### GIVING BACK

Marianas Health donates \$1,200 to Dandan Elementary School. From left, George Cruz, Marianas Health president; Martha Kintol, Dandan Elementary School principal; Maria C. Pangelinan, Marianas Health associate administrator; and Sherlyn Jones, Marianas Health clinical supervisor.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



## GUAM NEWS

### DOT awards \$146,417 for Guam highway safety

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Department of Transportation has awarded \$146,417 in federal grant assistance to the Government of Guam for its road and traffic safety efforts, according to a statement issued

by the office of Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo.

The grant was awarded through the State Highway and Community Grant Program administered by the National Highway and Safety Administration. The program is intended to help states and communities develop and implement highway safety

programs designed to reduce traffic accidents, deaths, injuries and property damage.

"This grant will assist Gov-Guam in improving the safety of our island's roads," said Bordallo. "The funds will be used to implement highway safety programs and other road improvements on Guam. It is important that Guam continue to improve our roadway system to reduce traffic fatalities across the island. I look forward to these federal funds benefiting our community." (PR)

### Gates reaffirms DoD support of Guam war claims

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo received reassurance yesterday from Defense Secretary Robert Gates of his department's continued support for Guam war claims. Gates testified during a House Armed Services Committee hearing that H.R. 44 will receive the same level of support as it did during the 111th Congress. Bordallo stressed the importance of Guam war claims to the people of Guam and that its resolution is critical to the success of the military buildup.

"I reiterated to [Gates] that resolution of Guam War Claims is critical to overcoming historical injustices the people of Guam have faced and therefore is critical to the success of the buildup. I will continue to work with Secretary Gates and other officials from the DoD to get the military buildup done right," said Bordallo. (PR)

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## Flu Vaccine Drive: Saturday, February 26<sup>th</sup>!

**TIME: 7AM to 12PM (or while supplies last)**

**WHERE: Ada Gymnasium**

**WHO: ALL people 6 months of age & older**

*The more people vaccinated,  
the less likely the flu will  
spread in the coming months.*

**Flu shots will NOT be given to persons allergic to eggs or with a fever!  
Children must be escorted by parental guardian.**

**NO CHC BLUE CARD NEEDED**

For more information, contact DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH at 236-8703  
website: [fluwatchdph.gov.mp](http://fluwatchdph.gov.mp)





# Mayor's office fixes Dandan school's secondary road

The Saipan Mayor's Office has completed repairs on the secondary roads covered by Dandan Elementary School.

"We are mandated by the Constitution to work on the secondary roads in the community," said Mayor Donald G. Flores yesterday.

Flores said his office received

a request from the Center Parent Involvement Committee in Dandan about a week or two ago.

The mayor said he immediately tasked his staff to work on the request, which took about two days to complete.

"It's important to have the secondary roads at Dandan Elementary School fixed for the

safety not only of the students but also of the parents who drive them to school," he noted.

Flores said the Saipan Mayor's Office accommodates road repair requests or takes the initiative once they see the need for it.

He said his office repaired the secondary roads at Oleai Elementary School thrice last year.

According to Flores, his staff will next work on fixing the Chalan Galaide Road in Tapochau.

Flores said they are working on getting all secondary roads repaired through their collaboration with the Department of Public Works. *(Clarissa V. David)*



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Saipan Mayor's Office has completed repairs on the secondary roads covered by Dandan Elementary School.

## Delta buys dictionaries for distribution to 3rd grade students in public schools

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Delta Air Lines has expressed its support for the Rotary Club of Saipan's dictionary project, which involves the distribution of over 1,000 dictionaries to third grade students of public schools on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Vocational services director Jeff Boyer disclosed that Delta Air Lines agreed to purchase the dictionaries that have already been labeled and will be handed out to students this February.

"Delta agreed to cover the cost of the books. We're really thankful for their support in this new program for the Rotary," he said.

Boyer earlier said that the idea for the dictionary project came out of a project sponsored by a Rotary Club in Guam.

He said third grade students are at the age when they will better absorb information

from reference materials such as dictionaries.

According to Boyer, Rotarians will form groups to better coordinate the distribution of dictionaries among public schools.

Boyer added that CTSI Logistics also provided assistance to the dictionary project by paying for the shipping cost of the books, which were bought in the U.S. mainland.

Delta Air Lines sales and marketing representative Chris A. Concepcion said their company has been a long-time supporter of children's education in the Commonwealth.

Concepcion told *Saipan Tribune* that the funds raised from Delta Air Lines' annual golf tournament is used to benefit various children's educational charities and activities in the CNMI.

"We are proud to continue that tradition by supporting the Rotary Club's dictionary project as well as the annual Parade of Books event," said Concepcion.

## Jeffries Beach gets red flag; Tinian, Saipan beaches OK

The Division of Environment Quality has red-flagged the Jeffries Beach on Saipan and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of this site for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

The division said that samples collected from Jeffries Beach had excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

The samples were taken from 12 locations on Saipan's coast on Wednesday.

Saipan's east and south recreational beaches, however, all got green flags after samples showed no excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria.

The division also analyzed 10 samples from Tinian Island this week and all passed the CNMI Marine Water Quality standards. Tinian beaches, therefore, get green flags this week.

For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. *(DEQ)*

*Happy Valentines Day!*

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## Breakfast & Lunch Special from February 21-25, 2011

	MONDAY (Feb. 21)	TUESDAY (Feb. 22)	WEDNESDAY (Feb. 23)	THURSDAY (Feb. 24)	FRIDAY (Feb. 25)
<b>BREAKFAST Special for \$6.95</b>	Breaded Steak	Grilled Salmon	Tuna Sandwich	Grilled Saba	Fried Rice Ala
All breakfast comes with Hawaiian Coffee					
<b>LUNCH Special for \$6.95</b>	Spicy Pork	Shrimp Curry	Hawaiian Spam Musubi & Fried Chicken	Sweet & Sour Pork	Sushi Burger
All lunch special comes with White Rice, choice of Soup or Salad of the day and also Tropical Hawaiian Iced Tea					

For reservation, please call 234-7829

Operation Hours-Opens Daily: Restaurant Breakfast - 7:00am to 10:00am • Lunch- 11:00 am to 2:00pm • Dinner - 6:00pm to 9:30pm

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## Weekend Special

Breakfast or Lunch  
Minimum of 2 pax  
Free 1 hour use of Tennis Court, Beach Volley Ball Court then afterward usage of the swimming pool.

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4 pm - 7 pm (Daily)  
All drinks are 50% OFF with 1 FREE Chaser

Entertainment for this Friday:  
**Mario & Loreta**



**COMMUNITY BRIEFS****UFO sets general assembly, election**

The United Filipino Organization is inviting all its members to attend the general assembly and election on Sunday, Feb. 20, 1pm at the Filcom Pavilion next to the Civic Center basketball court in Susupe.

Member organizations are requested to send at least three members for the scheduled assembly. For more information, contact president Olive Yana at 234-6529 or secretary Annamae Adaza at 483-5237 or 288-1990. **(PR)**

**Fast Start Orientation tomorrow**

This is to inform all Cub Scout and Boy Scout adult leaders that the Fast Start Orientation will be conducted on Saturday, Feb. 19,

2011, at 10am at the Garapan Elementary School cafeteria.

Registration starts at 9:30am. All adult volunteer leaders are requested to call the Boy Scout office to confirm attendance.

For more information, call Cal Reyes at 285-9709. **(PR)**

**KHS Senior Night and Parent Literacy tonight**

Kagman High School will be hosting its Senior Night with Parent Literacy tonight, Feb. 18, from 5pm to 7pm. It is mandatory for all seniors and a parent or guardian to be present. The agenda will include:

- Graduation status
- Portfolio requirement
- Information on Life after High School

Refreshments will be served! For more information, call the KHS office at 237-3840/67 for counselor Emily Camacho. **(PR)**

**3-hour power outage tomorrow**

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has scheduled a three-hour power interruption tomorrow, Feb. 19, 2011, that will affect areas from Puerto Rico to portions of Garapan, China Town, and Gualo Rai.

The outage is scheduled from 5:30am through 8:30am and will affect the Feeder 1 and Feeder 3 circuits, covering Puerto Rico (Shell gas station) to China Town (Commonwealth Drive), Navy Hill, Chalan Galaide, portions of Garapan, Upper/Lower MIHA Housing, portions of China Town, and portions of Gualo Rai.

CUC line crew will be performing general maintenance and repairs on 10 double circuit primary power poles on Chalan Pale Arnold Road. Line clearing will also be performed to remove vegetation

near primary lines in the Garapan area. **(CUC)**

**Public hearings on status for guest workers**

Senate Standing Committee on Federal Relations and Independent Agencies will be conducting public hearings on the long-term status of guest workers in the CNMI.

■ Friday, Feb. 18, at Rota Roundhouse, Songsong Village, from 6pm to 9pm;

■ Thursday, Feb. 24, at Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe, from 6pm to 9pm;

■ Friday, Feb. 25, at Tinian Elementary School Cafeteria, San Jose Village, from 6pm to 9pm.

A copy of the Senate's recommendations report may be obtained at [www.cnmileg.gov.mp](http://www.cnmileg.gov.mp) or contact the Office of Senate Vice President Jude U. Hofschneider at 664-8803. **(PR)**

**DPH epidemiologist on Marianas Agupa tomorrow**

Marianas Agupa will feature Public Health epidemiologist Edward Diaz, MPH, this Saturday, Feb. 19. The show is aired from 10am to 10:30am on Magic 100.3 FM. Topic of discussion will be the upcoming public health flu vaccination program, outreach campaign, and other prevention and intervention programs.

The Chamorro talk show program is hosted by Glenn H. Manglona. It will feature reports by former mayor Joseph S. Inos, correspondent and commentator Thomas D. Mendiola from Rota, and former senator David M. Cing from Tinian. Simultaneous Internet streaming via

[www.magic100radio.com](http://www.magic100radio.com) will be available. **(PR)**


**Military training on FDM, Warning Area-517**

The U.S. military will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on the following dates and times:


- Feb. 18, from 7am-7:30pm
- Feb. 21-25, from 9am-7:30pm

The public—especially fisherman, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. **(PR)**



**United States**  
**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands**  
**COUNCIL on DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**



## PUBLIC NOTICE TO CONDUCT SURVEY/INTERVIEW FOR FY 2012-2016 FIVE YEAR STATE PLAN

### FIVE YEAR STATE PLAN FY 2012-2016

The Developmental Disabilities Act includes ten Areas of emphasis that the DD Councils are to address in their state plans according to the needs of their communities, input from people with disabilities or their family members, and the status of service delivery systems. The ten areas of emphasis in alphabetical order are:

- CHILD CARE
- CROSS CUTTING
- EDUCATION/EARLY INTERVENTION
- EMPLOYMENT
- FORMAL/INFORMAL COMMUNITY SUPPORT
- HEALTH
- HOUSING
- QUALITY ASSURANCE
- RECREATION
- TRANSPORTATION

The CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities is required by Federal law to submit a Five Year State Plan every five years.

Therefore, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities will be conducting surveys/interviews on the island of Saipan on what priorities/goals that best utilizes the CNMI limited resources to increase system capacity, encourage advocacy and self-advocacy, and work toward system change in the areas of emphasis laid out by the federal Developmental Disabilities Act.

During the surveys/interviews, individuals with disabilities, their families, friends, and the general public will be provided the opportunity to provide their input and comments that will assist the Council with identifying priority issues that the Council can effectively address in the goals and objectives of the proposed FIVE YEAR STATE PLAN for Fiscal Years 2012 to 2016.

All and any comments, recommendations or inputs given during these surveys/interviews are confidential.

### Schedule of Survey/Interview on Saipan


Koblerville	Susupe	Tanapag	Kagman
<b>WHEN:</b> February 22, 2011	<b>WHEN:</b> February 23, 2011	<b>WHEN:</b> February 24, 2011	<b>WHEN:</b> TBA
<b>WHERE:</b> Koblerville Youth Center	<b>WHERE:</b> Multi-Purpose Center	<b>WHERE:</b> Tanapag Youth Center	<b>WHERE:</b> TBA
<b>TIME:</b> 5:00pm to 7:00pm	<b>TIME:</b> 5:00pm to 7:00pm	<b>TIME:</b> 5:00pm to 7:00pm	<b>TIME:</b> 5:00pm to 7:00pm

**\*\* Surveys/Interviews have been conducted for the islands of Tinian on Jan. 13-15, 2011 & Rota on Jan. 21-22, 2011.**


**REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION:** If you require reasonable accommodation (large print, sign language interpreter) to participate, please contact the CNMI DD COUNCIL Office at least 3 working days in advance of the meeting to make necessary arrangements.

Pamela C. Sablan, Executive Director of CNMI DD COUNCIL

This advertisement was paid for with DD Basic Grant Funds



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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that the Regular Meeting of the Board is scheduled on Wednesday, February 23, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. at the NMHC Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
  - a. Call to Order
  - b. Roll Call
- II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
- III. ADOPTION OF MINUTE
  - a. December 04, 2010 – Special Board Meeting Minute
- IV. ELECTION OF OFFICERS
- V. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS
  - a. Project Status Update
- VI. PROGRAM & HOUSING
  - a. SEMAP Update
  - b. HCV Update
- VII. MORTGAGE CREDIT PROGRAM
  - a. RD Settlement Update
  - b. Loans for Board's Approval
  - c. Other Loan Matters
- VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- IX. FIELD OFFICE REPORTS
- X. FISCAL AFFAIRS
  - a. Financial Statements
  - b. 2012 Budget
  - c. Travel Policy
- XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION
- XII. OTHER MATTERS
  - a. LIHTC Update
- XIII. ADJOURNMENT

(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/S/ MARCIE M. TOMOKANE  
Chairwoman of the Board

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Gold Necklaces</b> ..... up to \$2,500   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Gold Charm Bracelets</b> .... up to \$2,000 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Gold Broken Necklaces</b> .. up to \$1,500  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Gold Broken Bracelets</b> ... up to \$1,500 |
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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Gold Watch Cases</b> .....up to \$750    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Gold School Rings</b> .....up to \$500      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Gold Nugget Rings</b> .....up to \$800      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Gold Broken Rings</b> ..... up to \$500     |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Gold Watch Bands</b> ..... up to \$1,000 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Gold Chains</b> ..... up to \$1,000         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Gold Pocket Watches</b> .....up to \$750    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Gold Brooches</b> ..... up to \$1,000       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Gold Wedding Bands</b> .....up to \$350  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Gold Earrings</b> .....up to \$200          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Gold Link Bracelets</b> ..... up to \$2,500 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Gold Coins</b> ..... up to \$15,000         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Gold Bangles</b> .....up to \$850        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Gold Scrap</b> ..... up to \$1,250          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Gold Broken Chains</b> ..... up to \$1,000  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Gold Bars</b> ..... up to \$15,000          |

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# 170 Japanese visitors here for cultural exchange program

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

About 170 students, alumni, teachers, and school officials from Japan arrived on island to take part in the annual cultural exchange program between Marianas High School and Seisa schools.

MHS students and management welcomed their Japanese counterparts at a packed MHS gymnasium yesterday morning.

In his remarks, Saipan Mayor Donald G. Flores commended both MHS and Seisa schools for carrying on the exchange program, which he described as essential for the students' learning and provides them with the gift of experience.

"It is through this exchange program that our students have a greater understanding and appreciation of the Japanese and the different cultures on Saipan," said Flores, adding



Visiting students from Seisa schools perform a martial arts demonstration at a packed Marianas High School Gymnasium yesterday morning.

## BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



Happy 8th birthday greetings to a lovely daughter, Charlene Ebreo, who is celebrating her special day today, Feb. 18! We love you and hope that you will enjoy your day! Greetings come from your Tatay, Mom, Ivan, Tito, Tita, and the family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Advanced happy birthday greetings to Mona Dejillas, who will be celebrating her big day on Feb. 20. May your day be filled with fun and hopefully not too much drinks! Thank you for all the sister talks, partying, and advice. I love you!

Greetings come from your lil' sister Marylou, your nephew Caleb, Simon DLG, and the rest of the *familia*!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



that its continuity and availability must be ensured not only for the students but for the entire community.

Students from both schools presented various performances, including dance and martial arts.

"Our kids are so excited to participate in this program and have these Japanese students here with us every year," said MHS vice principal Cherlyn Cabrera.

Cabrera told *Saipan Tribune* that the students will be exposed to a variety of cultural activities such as mwar and bead mak-

ing, coconut husking, Japanese calligraphy, making Japanese clothing, and drum playing.

Seisa Group director Kuniko Sasaki said this year's visit is especially important as they also commemorate the 25th anniversary of the program, which has fostered camaraderie and goodwill among students as well as respect for both cultures.

As part of the celebration, Sasaki disclosed that they invited Ham Radio's Burt Thompson and Yasuo Miyazawa who founded and built the Seisa Group.

She said they also invited stu-

dents from three Seisa schools across Japan, including former students who participated in the exchange program in the past, to form this year's exchange program delegation.

Sasaki said that for most of their student participants, this is their first experience to go abroad where everything is new for them.

"They are faced with something new so they will learn the ability to manage a new situation which is a very important life skill. We would like our students to learn new things and get along

with new people," she explained.

Sasaki noted that another important component of their Saipan visits is to visit the Last Command Post where the students offer prayers for peace.

"With the history of Japan and Saipan during the war, we want to promote peace to our students," she said.

Sasaki disclosed that they will hold a ceremony on Saturday at Saipan World Resort in celebration of the program's 25th anniversary.

The Seisa delegation is scheduled to depart on Sunday.

## CCA re-elects four board members

CLARISSA V. DAVID  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Four members of the Commonwealth Cancer Association board of directors have been re-elected during a general membership meeting at the Department of Public Health Secretary's Conference Room yesterday.

They are Alex Sablan, Maggie Camacho, Bud White, and Jocelyn Songsong.

Program manager Tina Sablan said all four will each serve a two-year term.

Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* that another meeting is scheduled on Feb. 28, 4:30pm, at the same venue to conduct the election of officers among the board members.

The Commonwealth Cancer Association is a community-based nonprofit organization established in 2003 and dedicated to

promoting cancer awareness and prevention, providing patient support services, and serving as the liaison and advocate for cancer issues in the CNMI and the region.

Their biggest annual fund-raising event, Marianas March Against Cancer, gives everyone an opportunity to celebrate cancer survivors, remember those who have lost the fight, and raise money and awareness for all those affected by the disease.

CCA ensures all funds raised in this event, scheduled on May 13-14 at the Hopwood Junior High School field in Chalan Piao, are spent locally to fight the battle against cancer through patient/survivor assistance, outreach and advocacy, and prevention support programs.

For more information, visit their website at [www.ccamarianas.org](http://www.ccamarianas.org), email [cca@ccamarianas.org](mailto:cca@ccamarianas.org) or call 682-0050.

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/s/ MARGARITA R. OLOPAI-TAITANO  
DIRECTOR OF OVR

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN  
DIRECTOR, P&S

## NAVY GRADUATION ANNOUNCEMENT



### SN Hamilton-Ada, Joshua

graduated February 11, 2011 from  
Navy Recruit Training Center,  
Great Lakes, Illinois

SN Hamiton-Ada is a fourth generation sailor following in the footsteps of his late great-grandfather, YNC Wilburn C. Hamilton who also graduated from the same Navy Recruit Training Center in November 1939.

SN Hamilton-Ada will be stationed on the carrier USS Nimitz in Bremerton, Washington.

**BRAVO ZULU!**

With love, congratulations, and safe journeys,  
from your family

**COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS ISLANDS**

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM**

P.O. BOX 501370, SAIPAN, MP 96950

**Head Start Policy Council  
Agenda**

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Head Start Policy Council hereby gives notice that it will have a meeting on February 23, 2011 (Wednesday) from 5:30pm-7:30pm, Chalan Kanoa Head Start Center Resource Room, Saipan.

- I. Preliminary Matters**
  1. Call to Order
  2. Roll Call
  3. Quorum
  4. Adoption of Agenda
  5. Adoption of Minutes:
    - a. January 20, 2011
- II. Public Comments**
- III. Communications**
  1. From the State Board of Education
    - a. HPC BOE Representative
  2. From the Office of Head Start
- IV. Monthly Reports**
  1. Director
  2. Managers
  3. Finance
  4. Council Standing Committees
    - a. Personnel
    - b. Education
    - c. Executive
    - d. Finance
    - e. Public Relations
- V. Old Business**
  1. Revision of Policy 8000
- VI. New Business**
  1. Action Items:
    - a. Approval of the 2010-2011 Community Assessment Timeline & Work Plans
    - b. Approval of OHS Summit Supplemental Grant Application
  2. Review and Update of HPC By Laws
- VII. Executive Session**
- VIII. Next Meeting**
- IX. Adjournment**

Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)7, the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session. Public Comments are limited to 15 minutes; therefore comments are limited to 3 minutes each.

This meeting is open to the public, interested individuals are welcome to attend. Any person(s) requiring special accommodations may contact Ms. Candace Q. Celis at 664-3761; several days notice is required.

/s/ Mr. Anthony Barcinas  
Chairperson



# Business

## Obama, GOP freshmen win in jet engine budget fight

WASHINGTON (AP)—Determined to reduce deficits, impatient House Republican freshmen made common cause with President Barack Obama on Wednesday, scoring their biggest victory to date in a vote to cancel \$450 million for an alternative engine for the Pentagon's next-generation warplane.

"Right here, right now was a surefire way to reduce spending," declared Rep. Tom Rooney of Florida, a second-term lawmaker whose summons to cut money from the F-35 fighter jet

was answered by 47 Republican newcomers. Speaker John Boehner and other House GOP leaders back the funding.

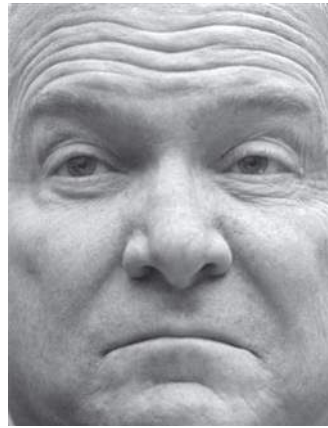
The incursion into the defense budget occurred as the Republican-controlled House debated legislation to cut federal spending by more than \$61 billion through the end of the current fiscal year. Nearly all of the reductions are aimed at domestic programs, ranging from education aid to nutrition, environmental protection and farm programs.

Obama has threatened a veto

AP  
Defense Secretary Robert Gates testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, Feb. 16, 2011, before the House Armed Services Committee hearing on the Defense Department's budget.

if the measure reaches his desk, but he and the GOP newcomers were on the same side when it came to the engine for the F-35, the costliest weapons program in U.S. history. The House vote was 233-198.

Two successive presidents as well as the Pentagon brass



have tried to scrap funding for the alternative engine, arguing

it is a waste of money. In a letter to Rooney earlier this week, Defense Secretary Robert Gates said total costs could near \$3 billion. Given the demands facing the military at a time of high deficits, "programs and initiatives of marginal or no benefit—like the engine—are unaffordable luxuries," he wrote.

Strictly by the numbers, the

vote was a bipartisan one, with 110 Republicans and 123 Democrats supporting cancellation of the funds, while 68 Democrats and 130 Republicans wanted to leave them in place.

But that breakdown obscured the change wrought by the voters last fall. A similar vote in May ended in defeat for opponents of the alternative engine.

## Rising wholesale prices spur inflation concerns

WASHINGTON (AP)—Steady improvement in the economy may soon come at a price—faster inflation.

Shoes, clothes, tires, plastics and other products all cost more at the wholesale level last month, putting pressure on businesses to pass the increases along to their customers.

The hikes also give ammunition to critics who fear that the Federal Reserve's bold steps to strengthen the economy have started to feed inflation and need to be reined in. Those critics include some Fed officials.

A widely watched measure of wholesale inflation, the core Producer Price Index, rose 0.5

percent last month, the largest monthly increase since October 2008. The entire index, which includes volatile gas and food prices, rose 0.8 percent.

Drug prices rose 1.4 percent, the most in almost three years. Prices rose for products throughout the economy.

Abercrombie & Fitch Co., which sells clothes primarily marketed to teenagers, said it expects to raise prices later this year because of soaring costs for raw materials, particularly cotton.

Those costs "are the biggest headwind we face," CEO Mike Jeffries told investors Wednesday.

### BUSINESS BRIEFS

#### Bernanke: Fed is moving ahead on financial revamp

WASHINGTON (AP)—Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke says the central bank is working closely with other regulators to implement the biggest overhaul of the nation's financial rules since the 1930s. The law enacted last year aims to protect the country from another financial crisis like the one that hit with force in 2008 and plunged the economy into a deep recession. Bernanke is scheduled to deliver a progress report on the law's implementa-

tion to Congress on Thursday.

#### Oil hovers above \$85 amid Middle East tensions

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices hovered near \$85 a barrel Thursday in Asia on investor concern political upheaval in the Middle East could spread and disrupt crude supplies. Benchmark crude for March delivery was up 4 cents at \$85.03 a barrel at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose 67 cents to settle at \$84.99 on Wednesday. In London, Brent

crude for April delivery gained 20 cents to \$103.98 a barrel on the ICE Futures exchange.

#### Borders decline means big changes for industry

NEW YORK (AP)—Whether or not Borders survives closing some 200 stores, the "superstore" boom of the past two decades has busted, authors and publishers face a market minus millions of square feet of physical shelf space and communities once crowded with booksellers may find themselves with none. "I think Borders' fall will cause a lot of publishers to realize they

can't just count on a few giant entities to sell their products," said Simba Information senior trade analyst Michael Norris. Borders, the second largest chain behind Barnes & Noble, Inc., filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection Wednesday, and will close nearly a third of its 642 stores, from San Francisco to Fort Lauderdale, Fla. About 6,000 of the company's 19,500 employees will lose their jobs. Borders owes millions of dollars to publishers, who must decide whether they should continue doing business with a bookseller that has been unable to pay its bills.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
Office of the Secretary of Public Works  
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai  
Saipan, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BIDS  
DPW11-IFB-004

KAGMAN PATHWAY PHASE II, SAIPAN

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the *Kagman Pathway Phase II*, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI)

The project package will be available on or after **February 11, 2011** at the Department of Public Works, Technical Services Division, Gov't. Bldg. 1353 Mednilla Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan. A non-refundable payment to One Hundred Dollars (**US\$100**). Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certificate (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2011. **Preference is available to US Citizens as per Public Law 15-95 and as further Amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the BID if preference is claimed.**

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on **March 02, 2011**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the DPW Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Joeten Commercial Building, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **March 09, 2011** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho**, Acting Director of Technical Services Division, Mednilla Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547

Sealed bids must be marked "**DPW11-IFB-004**". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time **March 15, 2011**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain and additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notice of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time **March 15, 2011**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via email to [procurement@opticom.com](mailto:procurement@opticom.com). For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of the sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **March 15, 2011** and must be received no later than **March 24, 2011**. Note that failure to submit the required numbers of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, **March 29, 2011**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bid will be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on **March 18, 2011**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (**\$25,000.00**) a bus security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid Security may be Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for the contract greater than **\$25,000.00**. The surety company providing the Performance and payment bonds must be authorized to conduct business in CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time and completion of this is **one hundred twenty (120) working days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at One Hundred Dollars (**US \$100.00**) per working day for delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ MARTIN C. SABLAN  
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN  
Director of Procurement & Supply



## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

### DEPUTY CLERK

Office of the Clerk of Court  
Superior Court  
CNMI Judicial Branch

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Superior Court is seeking highly motivated people for the positions of Deputy Clerk, Office of the Clerk of Court.

**DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:** This position is under the general supervision of the Presiding Judge and the direct supervision of the Clerk of Court or his/her designee. The employee performs work in accordance with established policies, practices, and court procedures. The following are required duties: receives, reviews, and records documents filed for hearings; provides data entry of pleadings onto the court's case management system; provides daily updates of pleadings and other caseload information for assigned judge through the court's automated processes, including but not limited to the document imaging and online filing system; inspects physical and electronic documents submitted to court, including looking for accuracy, proper form, and conformance with court order or court rules; assesses fines, receives and accounts for monies, issues receipts, prepares deposit slips and provides disbursements per court order or requests from customer service window; prepares and maintains physical and electronic file folders for court cases, including tracking of all pleadings associated with individual cases files; serves as a courtroom clerk when court hearings are in session, including but not limited to swearing in of witnesses, logging of all admitted exhibits, tracking all phases of a hearing on an index sheet for the recording counter, operating the electronic recording equipment, and providing continuous monitoring of the recording equipment to ensure the integrity of the record; and, performs other related duties as assigned.

**QUALIFICATIONS:** A high school degree or equivalent plus a minimum of three (3) years related work experience. Strong preference for those with work experience in the legal field. Candidates must possess a valid CNMI driver's license and current police and traffic clearances.

**COMPENSATION AND TENURE:** These are ungraded positions appointed and serve at the pleasure of the Presiding Judge. Starting salary will be \$16,000, commensurate with experience.

**INTERESTED PERSONS** should submit their resume and complete OPM application to the Director of Courts, Tracy M. Guerrero, PO Box 502165, Guma' Hustisia/limwal Aweewe/House of Justice, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. For additional information about these positions and detailed job descriptions, see <http://www.justice.gov.mp> or call (670) 532-9422 in Rota, 236-9716 or 236-9700 in Saipan, or 433-3410 in Tinian. Resume and application must be received by 5:00 p.m. on March 4, 2011.

THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.



# Nation

## Fla. girl dead in toxic truck; brother burned

**FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla.** (AP)—A state worker made the alarming discovery: a 10-year-old boy in the front seat of an exterminator's red pickup alongside a busy interstate, convulsing from seizures, dripping in chemicals so toxic they sickened rescue workers. Nearby, the boy's father lay on the ground, unresponsive and doused in gasoline in what he later told police was a futile attempt to kill himself.

The most horrifying find would come hours later because the truck was too toxic to search—the deteriorating body of the boy's twin sister, wrapped in plastic bags, wedged between chemical containers in the enclosed pickup bed.

The boy was in critical condition Wednesday, his burns, mostly below the waist, getting worse and doctors unsure of what chemical was used. His father, Jorge Barahona, was also in the hospital. He faces aggravated child abuse charges, but more were expected.

Meanwhile, an angry judge grilled state child welfare officials over missed opportunities to help the twins, Victor and Nubia, after an anonymous abuse allegation was called into a hotline Feb. 10—four days before the children were found by the highway assistance worker along Interstate 95 in West Palm Beach.

The caller said the twins' feet and hands were bound with duct tape and they were kept in



Authorities continue to investigate Jorge Barahona's pesticide truck, seen here Wednesday, Feb. 16, 2011, where it was found Monday night along the side of Interstate 95 near West Palm Beach, Fla.

a bathtub as punishment. Child welfare officials also believe the girl was being starved.

The state officials described a disturbing picture of a Jorge and Carmen Barahona, who adopted the twins, an 11-year-old autistic boy and a 7-year-old girl from foster care. The couple has been the focus of at least three abuse allegations in the past several years, but nothing ever came of them.

Authorities haven't said how Nubia was killed or when they think the chemical was put on Victor.

Barahona, 53, told officers he put his dead daughter in the truck and began driving with his son, intending to commit

suicide. He was distraught, gave his son a handful of sleeping pills and, with the boy's head in his lap, poured gasoline on himself, according to police documents.

He told police he intended to light himself on fire but said he could not do it because the boy was in the truck, according to the documents. When police asked why he didn't have similar burns as his son, he said some of the gasoline must have splattered on his son.

Barahona is remorseful but was not giving statements consistent with the evidence, said Captain Maria Santos-Olsen of the West Palm Beach Police.

Fumes from the boy were so

toxic, workers were overcome just by being close to him when they were wheeling him into the hospital. Four firefighters working the scene were also treated for chemical exposure.

On Wednesday afternoon, police shut down a stretch of I-95 because they found a potentially dangerous chemical near where the truck was found. They wouldn't say what kind of chemical it was.

Barahona's first court appearance was scheduled Thursday.

The Department of Children and Families began investigating the family last week after the Barahona's 7-year-old granddaughter told an adult the twins were kept locked in the bathroom, their hands and feet bound. The child said Nubia was sometimes kept in the tub all day.

## CIA: If caught, bin Laden would be sent to Gitmo

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—What would the government do if Osama bin Laden, an FBI most-wanted terrorist for more than a decade, were captured?

Washington is abuzz about questions whether bin Laden would ever see the inside of an American courtroom or where he might be imprisoned if he doesn't stand trial. The discussion, which on Wednesday bounced from Capitol Hill to the White House, is still mostly an academic exercise because there is no suggestion that the government is any closer to finding or capturing bin Laden, believed to be hiding in Pakistan.

For years, President Barack Obama's administration has maintained that criminal courts were more than equipped to handle even the most serious terror cases, but when faced with that question Wednesday during a Senate hearing, CIA Director Leon Panetta said the administration probably would just send bin Laden to the U.S. prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

That suggests that, at least under current U.S. law, bin Laden would never be transferred to U.S. soil to be tried in the civilian court system. Congress last year ordered that no federal money could be spent to ship prisoners from Guantanamo Bay to the U.S. mainland.

Bin Laden, who has evaded

capture for more than 10 years, has been indicted and could stand trial in New York City.

Panetta's remarks indicate that given the choice, Obama would opt to use the Bush administration policy that the president has long criticized.

National Intelligence Director James Clapper told senators if bin Laden was caught, there likely would be a debate about whether to try him.

These plans were not echoed by the White House.

"The president remains committed to closing the prison at Guantanamo Bay because as our military commanders have made clear, it's a national security priority to do so," spokesman Jay Carney said when asked about this. "I'm not going to speculate about what, you know, would happen if we were to capture Osama bin Laden."

Attorney General Eric Holder has been asked a similar question which he deflected, saying he hoped the U.S. will capture and interrogate bin Laden, but he doesn't expect the al-Qaida leader will be taken alive.

The varied answers from Obama administration officials show that nearly 10 years after the worst terror attack on U.S. soil, there is still not a clear message for what to do with the people behind it. So far, no one has been prosecuted for the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

## Hawaii Legislature approves same-sex civil unions

**HONOLULU** (AP)—Hawaii lawmakers approved a bill Wednesday to allow civil unions for same-sex couples, marking an end to what the governor called an "emotional process" for a longtime battleground in the gay rights movement.

Democratic Gov. Neil Abercrombie's office said he intends to sign the bill into law within 10 business days. Civil unions would begin Jan. 1, 2012, making the state the seventh in the nation to grant essentially the same rights of marriage to same-sex couples without authorizing marriage itself.

"I'm overjoyed. I'm so relieved. I'm so happy," said Kristin Bacon of Honolulu, who intends to get a civil union with her partner of 15 years. "We're really representing aloha and the aloha spirit with this vote. I'm thrilled."

Bacon was among a crowd of supporters wearing rainbow-colored lei and stickers saying "Equality" as they cheered, hugged and cried for joy after the Senate's 18-5 vote. The House passed the bill last week.

Gay rights advocates praised the vote as a victory for equal rights in a state known for its diversity and tolerance.

Opponents of the measure, many of them Christians, said civil unions erode the concept of the traditional family and could lead to same-sex marriage.

"I feel very grieved for all of us. Now we'll need God even more in our islands," said Stephanie Kon of Honolulu.

Rather than leave the decision to elected lawmakers, she wanted the state to vote on the issue as it did 13 years ago when voters overwhelmingly passed the nation's first "defense of marriage" constitutional amendment.

The amendment, approved by 69 percent of voters, was a response to a 1993 state Supreme Court decision that nearly legalized gay marriage.

The ruling would have made Hawaii the first state to allow same-sex couples to wed, but it didn't take effect while voters were given a chance to decide.

The "defense of marriage" amendment gave the Legislature the power to reserve mar-

riage to opposite-sex couples, and resulted in a law banning gay marriage in Hawaii but also left the door open for civil unions.

Since then, 29 other states also have enacted defense of marriage amendments.

Five more states and the District of Columbia permit same-sex marriage.

"I have always believed that civil unions respect our diversity, protect people's privacy, and reinforce our core values of equality and aloha," Abercrombie said in a statement released minutes after Wednesday's vote. "For me, this bill represents equal rights for all the people of Hawai'i."

The anxiously awaited civil unions vote came immediately after the Senate confirmed the state's first openly gay Supreme Court justice, Sabrina McKenna.

The Hawaii Legislature also passed a similar civil unions bill last year, but it was vetoed by then-Gov. Linda Lingle, a Republican. She was term-limited from running for election again in November.

## ACROSS THE NATION

### Thousands protest anti-union bill in Wisconsin

**MADISON, Wis.** (AP)—Thousands of teachers, students and prison guards descended on the Wisconsin Capitol on Wednesday to fight a move to strip government workers of union rights in the first state to grant them more than a half-century ago, but Republican leaders said the changes they sought would not be made. The Statehouse filled with as many as 10,000 demonstrators who chanted, sang the national anthem and beat drums for hours in demonstrations unlike any seen in Madison in decades. The noise in the rotunda rose to the level of a chainsaw, and many Madison teachers joined the protest by calling in sick in such numbers that the district—the state's second-largest—had to cancel classes. The new Republican governor, Scott Walker, is seeking passage of the nation's most aggressive anti-union proposal, which was moving swiftly through the GOP-led Legislature. Legislative leaders said Wednesday night they would make minor changes to the bill, but would keep the provision to remove collective bargaining rights that generated the protests.

### Tucson shooting victim promotes mental health

**TUCSON, Ariz.** (AP)—A congressional aide

who was shot in last month's attack in Arizona that killed six and left U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords and 12 others wounded said Wednesday that he's started a fund to promote mental health awareness and civility. Rising gingerly from a wheelchair, Ron Barber announced the fund, which he said would pay for programs in schools and in the Tucson community that will take some of the stigma away from mental illness. Barber, who is Giffords' district director, was shot in the leg and face in the Jan. 8 attack outside a Tucson supermarket.

### Mass. man accused of setting fire to mother, 83

**NORTHAMPTON, Mass.** (AP)—Authorities say a Massachusetts man who was angry with his 83-year-old mother sprayed lighter fluid on her, then used a match to set her on fire. Gary Cernak (SER'-nack) of Easthampton was indicted Tuesday on attempted murder charges. He has pleaded not guilty in district court and was sent to a state psychiatric hospital for evaluation. Court documents say he has been diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia. Police say Cernak was mad that his mother, Dorothy, had called a doctor and police about him the day before the attack in May. She was hospitalized with burns to her upper body, face and scalp.



# World

## Riot police storm Bahrain camp; 2 reported dead

**MANAMA, Bahrain (AP)**—Riot police firing tear gas and rubber bullets stormed a landmark square occupied by anti-government protesters Thursday, driving out demonstrators and destroying a makeshift encampment that had become the hub for demands to bring sweeping political changes to the kingdom.

The main opposition group Al Wefaq said at least two people were killed in the pre-dawn assault on Pearl Square, which was littered with flattened tents, trampled banners and broken glass. There was no official word on deaths or injuries.

After police regained control of the plaza, they chased protesters through sidestreets and put a ring of vehicles around the area with blue lights flashing in the darkened city just as the dawn call for prayers rang out.

The blow by authorities marked a dramatic shift in tactics. It appeared Bahrain's leaders had sought to rein in security forces after clashes Monday that left at least two people dead and brought sharp criticism from Western allies, including the U.S.—which operates its main naval base in the Gulf from Bahrain.

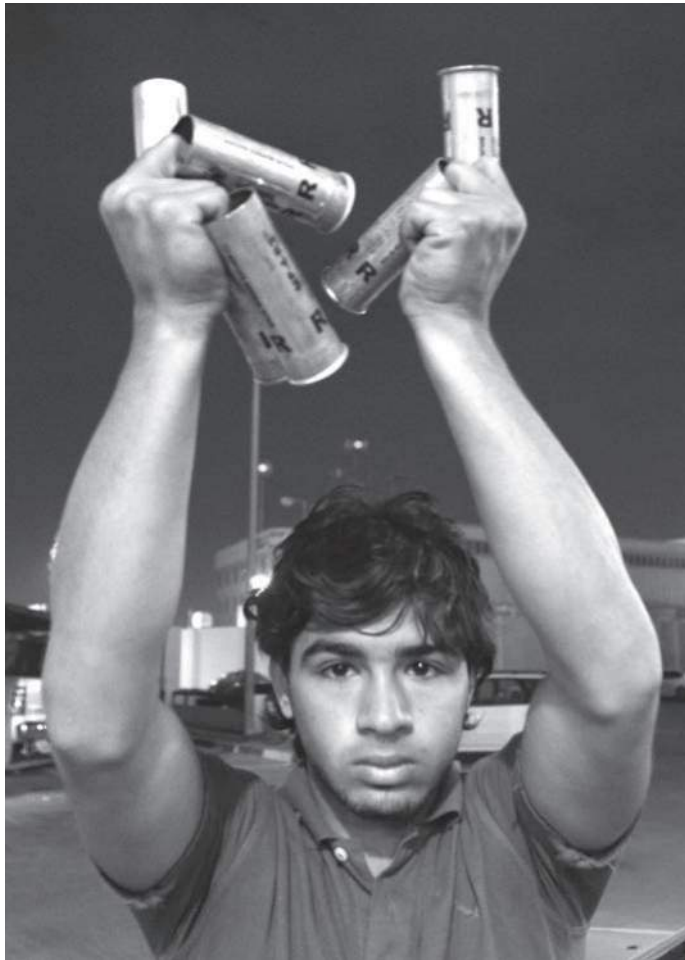
Police held back Wednesday as tens of thousands of protesters crowded into the seaside square, dominated by a 300-foot (90-foot) monument to Bahrain's history as a pearl diving center.

After the crackdown early Thursday, protesters who were camped in the square described police swarming in through a cloud of eye-stinging tear gas.

"They attacked our tents,

beating us with batons," said Jafar Jafar, 17. "The police were lined up at the bridge overhead. They were shooting tear gas from the bridge."

Hussein Abbas, 22, was wo-



A Bahraini anti-government demonstrator shows tear gas canisters fired by riot police attacking campers at the Pearl roundabout, in Manama, Bahrain, early Thursday morning, Feb. 17, 2011.

### Protest wave grows: Bahrain, Yemen and now Libya

**MANAMA, Bahrain (AP)**—The swelling protests against Bahrain's rulers gained momentum Wednesday with huge crowds calling for a sweeping political overhaul and the kingdom's stunned leaders appearing to shift tactics after attempts to crush the uprising stoked rage on the streets and sharp criticism from Western allies.

The widening challenges to the Arab world's political order—emboldened by the downfall of old-guard regimes in Tunisia and Egypt—also flared in Libya for the first time, with riot police battling protesters marching against the 42-year rule of Moammar Gadhafi.

In Yemen, the embattled president flooded the ancient capital of Sanaa with security forces to try to stamp out demonstrations that began nearly a week ago. They turned deadly Wednesday in the southern port of Aden, with two people killed in clashes with police.

"It's clear now that no Arab leader can truly feel comfortable," said Ali Fakhro, a political analyst and commentator in Bahrain. "Those days have been swept away."

It's also taken a big swipe at Western policy assumptions.

Tiny Bahrain has an outsized importance for Washington as home of the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet, a counterweight to Iran's military expansion in the Gulf. Yemen is a strategic battleground against Islamic militants inspired by al-Qaida.

Even Gadhafi—once an arch-foe of the West—has been gradually rebuilding international ties and remains a mercurial, but well examined, factor in Mideast affairs.

In many ways, Bahrain is mirroring Egypt's uprising on a smaller scale and with malls and conference centers as the backdrop instead of the faded glory of Cairo's Tahrir Square.

Protesters have turned a landmark square in the capital of Manama into their base camp, which was swollen with tens of thousands of people by nightfall Wednesday. Their chants literally reverberated off the buildings and bridges. They sang the Egyptian national anthem. Their next important move takes a page directly from the Egypt unrest: calling for a major march after

Friday prayers to re-energize its followers.

The ruling Sunni dynasty—long accused of trampling the aspirations of Bahrain's Shiite majority—has retrenched after unleashing security forces in street clashes that left at least two dead since Monday. Riot squads have hung back as the crowds took control of Pearl Square, dominated by a 300-foot (90-foot) monument to Bahrain's history as a pearl diving center.

An emergency parliament meeting was called for Thursday, but it may only serve to show the country's divisions and reinforce its image as the most politically volatile in the Gulf.

The main Shiite opposition bloc, with 18 of the 40 seats, has said it will not return to the chamber until the protest demands are met.

It began Monday as a cry for the country's Sunni monarchy to loosen its grip, including hand-picking most top government posts, and open more opportunities for the country's Shiites, who have long complained of being blocked from decision-making roles or key posts in the military.

ken by a missed call from his wife, presumably trying to warn him about reports that police were preparing to move in.

"Then all of a sudden the square was filled with tear gas clouds. Our women were screaming ... What kind of ruler does this to his people? There were women and children with us!"

The Egypt-inspired protests began Monday as a cry for the country's Sunni monarchy to loosen its grip, including hand-picking most top government posts, and open more opportunities for the country's majority Shiites, who have long complained of being blocked from decision-making roles or key posts in the military.

But the uprising's demands have steadily grown bolder. Many protesters are calling for the government to provide more jobs and better housing, free all political detainees and abolish a system that offers Bahraini citizenship to Sunnis from around the Middle East as a way to close the population gap with Shiites, who account for 70 percent of the population. Many of the newly minted nationals get jobs in security forces to further cement the number of presumed loyalists

protecting the ruling system.

Increasingly, protesters are also chanting slogans to wipe away the entire ruling dynasty that has led Bahrain for more than 200 years and is firmly backed by the Sunni sheiks and monarchs across the Gulf.

Although Bahrain is sandwiched between two of OPEC's heavyweights, Saudi Arabia and Qatar, it has limited oil resources and depends heavily on its role as a regional financial hub and playground for Saudis, who can drive over a causeway to enjoy Bahrain's Western-style bars, hotels and beaches.

Social networking websites Wednesday also were abuzz with calls to press ahead with the protests. They were matched by insults from presumed government backers calling the demonstrators traitors and agents of Shiite powerhouse Iran. Some pointed out that Iranian hard-liners have called Bahrain the Islamic Republic's "14th province" because of its Shiite links. The protest movement's next move is unclear, but the island nation has been rocked by street battles as recently as last summer. A wave of arrests of perceived Shiite dissidents touched off weeks of rioting and demonstrations.

## PH urges China not to execute 3 Filipinos

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)**—The Philippine president said Wednesday that he will ask his Chinese counterpart to commute the death sentences of three Filipinos scheduled to be executed next week in China for drug trafficking. China has defended the sentences.

Benigno Aquino III said Wednesday that officials were trying to set up a phone call to Chinese President Hu Jintao so he could personally make the appeal on behalf of the two women and one man, whose death sentences were affirmed last week by the Supreme People's Court in Beijing.

Philippine Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Esteban Conejos said the three were arrested separately in 2008 carrying packages containing about 33 pounds (15 kilograms) of heroin into China. They were convicted and sentenced in 2009.

Philippine efforts to win a commutation of the sentences follow moves by its government to appease Beijing after eight Hong Kong tourists were killed in a hijacked bus during a botched police rescue in Manila in August.

Aquino did not send a representative to the Nobel Peace Prize ceremony in December honoring a jailed Chinese dissident to spare Filipinos on death row in China.

Two weeks ago, Manila deported to Beijing 14 Taiwanese facing fraud charges in China despite protests from Taipei.

"We think we have very good relations with them," he said. "Unfortunately we have not yet been successful, but we will not stop."

In a statement, the Chinese embassy in Manila said the three Filipinos stood trial and a went through an appeals process in 2009 before the Supreme Court affirmed the conviction and the death penalty on them on Feb. 11.

"No one is privileged to transcend the law," the statement said.

The three Filipinos were arrested separately in 2008 carrying packages containing about 33 pounds (about 15 kilograms) of heroin into China in exchange for cash. The three claimed they were unaware the packages held drugs, Conejos said.

Conejos said that since 2006, more than 200 Filipinos have faced drug cases in China. Of the total 72 have received the death penalty with possible commutation, 38 meted life imprisonment, 78 sentenced to 15 years in prison and 35 currently on trial. Only six cases have reached the supreme court — two sentences overturned, three affirmed and one still being reviewed.

Thomas E. Clifford  
Attorney at Law  
2nd Floor, Alexander Building, San Jose  
P.O. Box 506514  
Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel. (670) 235-8846  
Fax (670) 235-8848

Attorney for Plaintiff First Hawaiian Bank

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE  
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA  
ISLANDS

FIRST HAWAIIAN BANK,	)	CIVIL ACTION
Plaintiff,	)	NO. 09-0178
vs.	)	<b>NOTICE OF</b>
VICENTE S. SALAS and	)	<b>FORECLOSURE SALE</b>
JOAQUINA DLG. SALAS,	)	
Defendants.	)	

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that, by virtue of a Judgment of Foreclosure entered on February 3, 2010, and an Order Granting Substitution of Auctioneer dated December 20, 2010, in favor of Plaintiff, First Hawaiian Bank, and against Defendants, Vicente S. Salas and Joaquina DLG. Salas, and the Court ordering a public sale, pursuant to 2 CMC § 4537 (e), of Defendants' mortgaged right, title, interest and claim in and to real property and all improvements thereon situated in Capital Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described as follows:

Lot Number 018 E 29, Capital Hill,  
Saipan, as more particularly on  
Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 018 E 01, the  
original of which was recorded on 01  
May 86, as Document No. 86-0878 at  
Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan.

The undersigned will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, Defendants' right, title, and interest in and to the above-described property, for cash, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow.

- Date, Time and Place of Sale.** The sale is open to the general public (including the Defendants), and will be held on **February 25, 2011**, at the hour of 2:00 p.m., at the **entranceway to the Law Offices of Thomas E. Clifford, Alexander Building, San Jose, Saipan**. Registration for the auction sale will begin at **1:30 p.m.**
- Inspection of Property.** It is the responsibility of each bidder to inspect the property prior to the sale. Failure of the bidder to inspect the property or any portion thereof will not constitute ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by a bidder.
- Warranties and Covenants.** The real property listed in this Notice will be sold in its current condition "as-is-where-is" as of the date of sale. The sale will be held without any warranties or covenants whatsoever, whether express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of merchantability, and/or title of fitness for any purpose whatsoever, all which warranties and covenants are hereby expressly disclaimed. Neither the undersigned nor the Plaintiff shall be liable for the quality of the real property listed, or for any defect in the description thereof. Buyer shall not be entitled to rescission, damages, or any other remedy on account thereof. The real property listed is being sold subject to all existing covenants, conditions, restrictions, reservations, exploration rights, easements, rights of way, assessments, zoning, and all other land use restrictions. And, the real property listed is being sold subject to the undersigned's acceptance of any bid.
- Conduct of Sale.**
  - RESERVE.** The sale may be held without reserve, meaning a minimum price. Any reserve price on the real property offered for sale may or may not be disclosed to bidders, in the sole discretion of the undersigned.
  - BIDS.** The auction will be open, oral and verbal. Advance bids for the real property listed in this Notice may be submitted in writing in advance of the auction date and time and delivered to **Auctioneer, Micheline W. Brel, in care of the Law Offices of Thomas E. Clifford, Saipan**. The bidder assumes all risk of non-delivery, late delivery, or error in delivery of advance bids. The highest advance bid will be the opening bid. The amount of increment to increase bids and the decision as to naming who is the high bidder will be at the direction and sole discretion of the undersigned. The highest bid made at the auction, and accepted by the undersigned, shall be considered an agreement by the bidder to buy the real property and that bid amount shall be final.
  - DISPUTES.** The undersigned may resubmit any real property listed in this Notice, if a dispute arises as to any bid thereon.
  - DEPOSIT.** Immediately after a sale is consummated the successful bidder must pay to the undersigned a deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price. Payment shall be in cash, certified check, Cashier's Check, or Money Order. The balance of 90% must be paid to the Plaintiff, in care of the **Law Offices of Thomas E. Clifford**, within seventy-two (72) hours from the time of sale, in cash or cash equivalent. If the full balance of 90% is not paid, Plaintiff will retain the deposit as liquidated damages and may again offer for sale the above listed real property.
  - MEMORANDUM.** If requested by the undersigned, a successful bidder must sign a Memorandum of Sale immediately after the sale of the listed real property is struck at auction. All sales are final and there are no refunds.
- Rights and Duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the laws, customs, and usages of the CNMI governing auction sales, the undersigned shall have the following rights and duties: (1) To withdraw the real property listed in this Notice before sale or before a bid for such real property is accepted; (2) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before the real property is struck off; (3) To offer the real property listed in any order it may choose; and (4) To reject, on behalf of the Plaintiff, any and all bids for any reason. The exercise of any of these four rights and duties will be without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby.
- Court Approval Required.** Every sale may be subject to approval by the Court. The auctioneer makes no warranties or promises with respect to Court approval of the sale, including but not limited to the time in which such approval may be granted. No delay in the granting of Court approval shall be ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any successful bidder. The successful bidder will be promptly notified if and when Court approval is granted or rejected.
- Change of Terms and Conditions.** The undersigned reserves the right to change the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, before the auction date and time or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, will be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

DATED, this 12th day of January, 2011.  
/s/ Micheline W. Brel  
MICHELINE W. BREL, Auctioneer  
P.O. Box 505710, Saipan  
Tel: (670) 235-8064, 788-1855  
Fax: 235-8070  
E-mail: michbrel@hotmail.com



## DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT

This is to inform all relatives  
and friends that

# Richard John Szumiel “Dick”

was called to his eternal rest on  
Wednesday, December 1, 2010.

Memorial services will be held on  
Saturday, February 19, 2011, 6:30pm  
at Borja Funeral Home, Beach Road,  
San Jose, Saipan.

A service will also be held in Guam at  
the The Episcopal Church of St. John  
the Divine, 9111 North Marine Corps  
Drive, Tumon Bay. Please call  
671-646-1708 for schedule.



## Off The Wall

### OFFBEAT BRIEFS

#### Vt. woman crowned nation's top grocery bagger

**BURLINGTON, Vt. (AP)**—A Vermont woman has been crowned the nation's top grocery bagger. Twenty-four-year-old Krystal Smith of Burlington won the award and the \$10,000 prize at the 2011 U.S. Best Bagger National Championship in Las Vegas. On Monday, Smith beat 21 competitors by filling three grocery bags in 38 seconds at the Mirage Hotel. The Burlington Free Press says contestants are judged on their ability to bag grocery staples including bread, milk, eggs and canned goods and on their bag-building technique, weight distribution, style, attitude and appearance. Smith has worked for eight years at Hanaford Supermarket.

#### Just in time: NC couple claims \$1M lottery prize

**STALLINGS, N.C. (AP)**—A North Carolina couple has claimed a \$1 million lotto prize just a day before it expired. Raleigh Hill bought the Mega Millions ticket last summer. The state lottery agency said Hill and his wife claimed the prize Tuesday at the agency's headquarters. Hill said he only realized a couple of weeks after the Aug. 20 drawing that his ticket

matched all five white balls. He waited two or three more weeks to tell his wife, until she came home at the end of a bad day. Hill told the state lottery he hesitated to come in because of the attention. At one point, he lost track of the ticket before finding where he'd hidden it in a shoe box. After taxes, the couple received \$680,000. Hill is a baggage handler and his wife, Erin Hill, works for the federal government.

#### Ohio man proposes to girlfriend with bus ad

**CANTON, Ohio (AP)**—An Ohio woman has said yes to a marriage proposal that arrived by bus. Laura Kalamets looked out a Canton restaurant window during a Valentine's Day lunch with her boyfriend and saw a public bus with an ad on its side that read: "Laura, Will You Marry Me?" It was signed "Mark" and included in smaller letters the words "and make me the happiest man in the world." Kalamets says she thought she'd have a heart attack. Mark Rose paid the transit agency \$300 for the special ad and arranged for the bus to be parked in the right spot around noon on Monday. The Repository newspaper of Canton reports the ad will remain in place for a week. Now it has the additional message: "She said yes."

#### Taser fails to slow roaming Alaska moose

**FAIRBANKS, Alaska (AP)**—A Taser may not be enough to stop a moose. The Fairbanks Daily News-Miner reports that biologists with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game failed in their attempts to stun a cow moose to remove a rope around its neck that was used to rescue it from a river last month. Biologists said the moose appeared to react only to the sound of the Taser going off, and it started running. Biologists decided to leave the cow, which was accompanied by a calf. They said the rope is not hindering her ability to breathe, eat or walk - and may just fall off eventually.

#### Driver's dog helps Oregon deputy make drug bust

**MORO, Ore. (AP)**—An Oregon sheriff's deputy didn't need a drug dog to point out a stash during a recent traffic stop. The driver's dog did it for him. KGW-TV reports Sherman County sheriff's Sgt. John Terrel was pulling over a pickup truck Feb. 9 when he saw a sock fly out the window. It turned out to be stuffed with marijuana and hashish. The driver told Terrel he was trying to hide the sock, but his pit bull mix grabbed it and wouldn't let go, enjoying a tug-of-war game.

### Message of Appreciation

Time has lapsed since our beloved  
Nadine Janelle better known as

## “Nade”

left her earthly family to join  
God's heavenly Kingdom.

We will never forget the numerous  
people who have crossed our path  
during her illness and her passing.

Our deepest and most profound  
gratitude to all our families and friends  
from here and abroad who gave unselfishly,  
be it in-kind, monetary donations, prayers,  
flowers and/or services.

We also extend our sincerest gratitude to all  
the doctors and staff of Eisenhower Medical  
Cancer Center in California, American Cancer  
Society in California and Saipan, Doctors and  
staff at CHC, Selina DeLeon of Lacey WA,  
Del R. Rios of Oklahoma, Texas, Fr. Charlie  
Borja, Fr. Jesse Reyes, all the altar servers,  
choirs and most especially to Techa, Aunt  
Danang Camacho.

Olomwaay and God Bless Us All

**THE FAMILY**



### FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY

*In Loving Memory of*



## †Francisco Castro Ada

September 26, 1934 – March 2, 2010

We invite our family and friends to join us in commemorating  
the First Death Anniversary of our beloved husband and  
father. Daily Mass will be offered at 6:00 am, at the Kristo Rai  
Church, beginning Tuesday, February 22, 2011, through the  
Ninth and Final Day of Mass on Wednesday, March 2, 2011.

Your presence and prayers are appreciated.

Si Yu'os Ma'ase.

**Ines Seman Ada and Children**



## DEATH AND FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

# † Margarita “Victorina” Muna Tudela Reyes

Lovingly known as “Nan Ninang” or “Pale Jesse Reyes’ Mom”,  
Born June 9, 1931 was called to her eternal rest  
On Friday, February 11, 2011.

“It is in the Love of the Lord and of my family that I now find everlasting peace...”

**Predeceased by:**

**Mother:** †Maria (Marciana) Palacios Muna Tudela

**Father:** †Joaquin Sablan Tudela

**Daughter:** †Lydia T. Reyes

**Son-In-Law:** †Vicente Manglona Concepcion

**Sister:** †Mariana T. Castro

**Brothers:** † Pedro M. Tudela, †Roman M. Tudela,  
†Zacharias M. Tudela, †Leonardo M. Tudela

**Sisters-In-Law:** †Rita M. Reyes, †Rufina M. Tudela, †Natividad F. Tudela,  
†Isabel C. Tudela

**Father-In-Law:** †Jose Coloma Reyes

**Mother-In-Law:** †Maria Palacios Cabrera

**Sisters-In-Law / Brothers-In-Law:**

†Vicente Castro, †Rosa R. & †Antonio Duenas; †Maria R. †Jose C. Pangelinan;  
†Jose C. & †Rita M. Reyes; †Angelica & †Jose Bermudes, †Alfonso R. Dela Cruz,  
†Adela R. & †Andres San Nicholas; †Ana R. & †Jose Ayuyu; †Setberio Reyes  
†Jose Reyes

**Her memory will live forever in the hearts of her:**

**Husband:** Alfonso Cabrera Reyes

**Children:** **Margarita R.** & Juan M. Concepcion (Marissa Joy / Chris Castro (Nyesha),  
John / Jennifer Concepcion (Chloe), Jonah Concepcion / Polly Quitugua (Kayleen & Kylee)  
**Mariana (Ki) R.** & †Vicente M. Concepcion (Tina / Duanne Pangelinan (Adrian, Christian), Lawrence / Evelyn Concepcion  
(Jacques, Jonathan, Balbina), Barbara Ann Concepcion (Marciana / Jeff (Vicente), Patrick, Christopher, Paethon, Patrick Jr.)  
Marianne / Raymond Teregeyo (Raymond Jr., Mariana)  
**Vicente T. Reyes** (Derik (Kaysa, Jerico, Denton), Vincent, Victoria)  
**Joaquin T.** & Gloria Reyes (Regina Reyes / Paul Elliot (Joaquin), Janelle (Audrey), Trina  
**Jose T. Reyes** (Tera Camacho / Francisco Cruz (Kieralin, Christopher)  
†Lydia T. Reyes  
**Leonardo T.** & Velma Reyes (Nicole / Steven Sweeden (Brooklynne), Kalani, Magdalena, Kianna, Noah)  
**Magdalena Paz R.** & Donald Camacho (Lydia / Ryo Saso (Yuri, Kenichiro), Donald Jr., Jenny, Donovan)  
**Nicolas T.** & Arlene Reyes (Nick Reyes / Vanessa Leon Guerrero (Alana, Nick Jr.), Paula Reyes / Darrel Castro (Zion), Christine  
(Gonzi, Cherity), Jude, Leandro  
**Gregorio T.** & Alicia Reyes (Grecia)  
**Reverend Father Jesse T. Reyes**  
†Maria Angeles C. Esteves (Vicente/Divina (Joseph, Angelita (Divine & Raven), †Joseph, †Francisco, Juan & Gregorio)  
**Maria Paz C. Younis** (Banny, Laila / Laurence C. Boyer (Ziad, Rania, Kadeen, Saeed), Farah, Amier/Jennifer Torres (Yasmeen),  
Suaad / Roland San Nicolas (Endymion), Salam)

**Brother & Sister-in-Law:** Gregorio M. & Dolores Tudela

**Reared Daughter:** Bernie T. Nelson

**Reared Grand daughter:** Lydia R. Saso

**Reared Grandson:** Juan C. Esteves, Jr. (Tomoko (Akari)

**In-Law:** Ana M. Tudela & †Roman M. Tudela

Maria R. Dela Cruz & †Alfonso R. Dela Cruz

**God Children:** Bernadita C. Cepeda, Lorenzon Leon Guerrero, Patricia C. Falig

**Caretaker:** Charito Signio

**Special Family Friends:**

Hon. Governor and Mrs. Benigno R. Fitia (Josie)  
Rev. Father Paul Goffigan and Tan Estella Goffigan  
Mr. and Mrs. Bill and Brenda Satterberg & family  
Mr. and Mrs. Antonio and Lani Nelson & family

Also survived by numerous nieces, nephews, grandchildren, great grandchildre, great great grandchild and godchildren.

Daily morning mass at 6:00 am and nightly rosary at 7:00 pm are being offered at San Jose Church. On Saturday, February 19, 2011, her remains will be escorted from the Commonwealth Health Center Morgue to Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 7:30 am for viewing and last respects. Mass of Christian Burial is at 3:00 pm, followed by interment at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Your presence, thoughts and prayers are much appreciated.

**Alfonso C. Reyes and Children**



# Science & Technology

## Google introduces online payment system

**BERLIN (AP)**—Google Inc. is undercutting rival Apple Inc. with an online payment system that lets publishers keep more of the fees charged for reading their digital editions.

Google CEO Eric Schmidt unveiled the one-stop payment service, called One Pass, at Berlin's Humboldt University on Wednesday. Three German publishers, including the na-

tion's leading Axel Springer AG, already have signed up.

Besides Germany, One Pass is available to publishers in Canada, France, Italy, the U.K. and the U.S. Google said Media

General Inc., publisher of the Richmond Times-Dispatch, and Rust Communications, owner of the Southeast Missourian, plan to use One Pass.

The announcement came

a day after Apple rolled out a long-awaited subscription service for applications designed for its iPhone and iPad. Apple is demanding a 30 percent cut of all subscriptions sold on those

mobile apps while Google is charging 10 percent.

"We aren't in this to make money. Google makes money in other ways," Schmidt said. "We are trying to get money to people who are producing high-quality content."

Google makes most of its money from digital ads, including some that appear alongside online stories from newspapers and magazines.

The strategy has turned Google into one of the world's most profitable companies, fostering resentment among some publishers, which believe the Internet search engine has prospered by showing excerpts of newspaper and magazine stories.

Most of the Web content has been given away during the past 15 years, but more publishers already have started or are planning to impose fees to access content digitally.

## USB turntable is worth every cent

By DON LINDICH  
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**Q. I know you are a fan of vinyl records and I need some help getting a new turntable for my sound system. Besides sound-system duty I may want to transfer some of the music to my computer as well. My receiver doesn't have an input for a turntable, so I will also need a phono pre-amp unless the turntable has one built in. Do you recommend any of the USB turntables I see selling in stores for \$125 to \$200?—S.G., Murrysville, Pa.**

**A.** The USB turntables I see selling in big-box stores look like, to put it bluntly, junk. They are made of flimsy plastic and are equipped with extremely crude tonearms and no-name cartridges. As much as I love vinyl and encourage people to enjoy records for the sound



Audio-Technica AT-LP120-USB Turntable.

quality and tremendous variety of music available at low prices, if you plan on going with such a turntable I am inclined to tell you to just pass and stick with CDs. You will never know what vinyl is capable of if you use one of these turntables.

I did test an exceptional turntable recently that sells for about the same price as the flimsy cheapies. It looks good and is

well built, it sounds great, and at the current selling price of under \$200 complete with cartridge it is absolutely the only way to go if you are looking for a really inexpensive turntable. It is the AT-LP120-USB from Audio-Technica, a company long associated with quality vinyl playback. Though it lists for \$299.95, I regularly see the AT-LP120 USB selling for \$198 at sites such as Amazon.com. It is worth the suggested retail price of \$299.95 and at under \$200 purchase price it is the vinyl-record bargain of the 21st century.

The AT-LP120-USB looks like a clone of the famous Technics SL-1200, which was, sadly, discontinued recently. While the AT-LP120USB does not duplicate the solidity and performance of the iconic SL-1200,

your \$200 gets you a quality turntable with a built-in phono preamplifier and USB connection for your computer. If your receiver has a phono input you can bypass the turntable's preamplifier if you prefer.

I found the AT-LP120-USB very simple to set up. Given all the features for the price I was somewhat skeptical when I hooked the turntable up to my evaluation system, but this skepticism disappeared the moment the needle hit the groove and the music started playing. The AT-LP120-USB can produce that warm, listenable vinyl magic! It has a very smooth, listenable, solid sound with good bass, a quiet background, and a decent amount of detail retrieval. My only concern is the supplied cartridge tracks at 3 grams, which is more than the typical tracking force of 1.25-2.0 grams for most cartridges. This extra force will wear your records sooner, and

the stylus (needle) used on the cartridge is a primitive design that is not optimal for extracting fine detail from the record grooves. When you are ready to upgrade the cartridge the Shure M97xE for \$55 or the Audio-Technica AT440MLA for \$99 are good choices. It is worth your while to upgrade the cartridge as soon as possible. Just take care that it is installed correctly for best performance.

*Read past columns and product reviews by Don Lindich at [www.soundadviceblog.com](http://www.soundadviceblog.com), and contact him using the "submit question" link on that site.*

## Deleted songs just won't die

By STEVE ALEXANDER  
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

**QUESTION: I have close to 50,000 songs in my iTunes music collection. Besides organizing them in iTunes, I keep them stored in alphabetical order in two Windows file folders I created.**

**Now I'd like to permanently delete some of that music. But when I delete a song in iTunes, sending it to the Windows recycle bin, the song still remains in one of the alphabetized file folders. It was only deleted from iTunes' original file folder. What do you suggest?—Andy Seleznev, Tucson, Ariz.**

**ANSWER:** iTunes looks for songs in the Windows location from which they were originally imported. So it's not surprising that the song you deleted from iTunes is still in the file folder you created later.

There are two approaches you can take.

If a second copy of the song is still in the iTunes library, then you must have imported it to iTunes twice, once from the old folder and once from a new one. Try deleting this second song copy from the iTunes library.

If the song is no longer in the iTunes library, use Windows Explorer to delete the song from the alphabetized folder.

If you still have problems, you can download software at <http://www.tinyurl.com/4zpf85d/> that cleans up iTunes by correcting song information tags, finding artwork, eliminating duplicate songs and finding where songs are stored.

■ ■ ■

**Q: We have Verizon Wireless**

**cell service, but there is no signal inside our house. We can't make or receive calls unless we go outdoors. Some visitors have the same problem with their cell phone services, while others don't.**

**Is there a device we can buy that will measure the cell phone signal strength for various vendors, so we know which to patronize?—Ira Stein, Key Largo, Fla.**

**A:** I don't know of a device that will measure and compare the strength of all providers' cell phone signals inside your house.

However, if you have a broadband connection, you can buy a Verizon Wireless "network extender" device that effectively boosts the

Verizon cell phone signal within your home. It works by linking to Verizon through your Internet connection, then broadcasting a cellular signal inside your home.

Verizon's network extender costs \$250 but has no monthly fee. It requires a wired Internet connection with a download speed of at least 1 megabit (1 million bits per second.) That's slow enough that almost any broadband connection can achieve it. For details, see <http://tinyurl.com/4gl8e8h/>. To buy a network extender, call Verizon Wireless at 800-256-4646.

*Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; e-mail: [steve.j.alexander@gmail.com](mailto:steve.j.alexander@gmail.com). Please include a full name, city and phone number.*

## First Year Death Anniversary

In Loving Memory of Our Beloved,

**Juanita Mendiola Fleming**

*We the Children and families, of the late Juanita Mendiola Fleming would like to invite all our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the first year anniversary of our beloved Mother's passing unto eternal life.*

*Mass of Intention will be celebrated daily at St. Jude Church in Koblerville at 6:00PM beginning on Monday, February 21, 2011 thru Monday, February 28, 2011, except on Sunday, February 27, 2011 Mass will be celebrated at 10:00AM at St. Jude Church.*

*On the final day Tuesday, March 1, 2011, Mass will be celebrated at 6:00AM at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral. Breakfast will be served immediately after Mass at the Joeten Daidai Social Hall.*

*Your Presence, Thoughts, and Prayers are greatly appreciated.*

*Thank you and Si Yu'us Ma'ase*

**The Family**



# Life & Style

## Bruno Mars gets probation in Las Vegas cocaine case

**LAS VEGAS (AP)**—Bruno Mars had two firsts this week. One was winning a Grammy. The other came Wednesday when the 25-year-old singer-songwriter pleaded guilty to cocaine possession.

Unlike the award for his hit, "Just The Way You Are," his brush with the law in Las Vegas may not last forever.

Mars will avoid prison and will have no conviction on his record if he stays out of trouble for a year and meets other conditions of his plea deal.

Clark County District Judge Jessie Walsh made sure Mars understood that he could face up to four years in state prison if he violates the terms of the agreement.

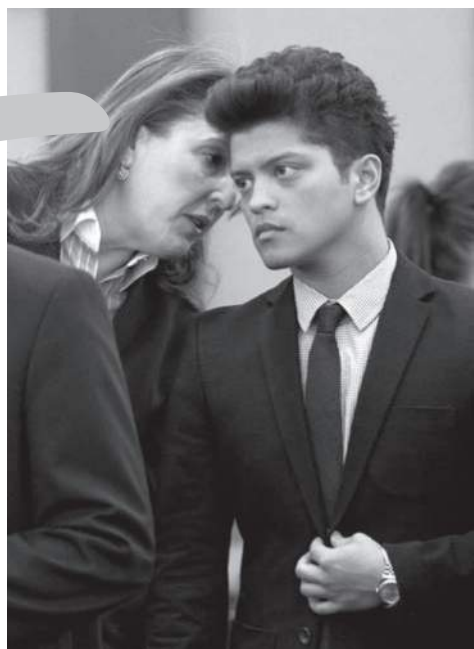
"You understand the penalty range?" she asked.

"Four years," Mars replied, standing in a dark suit with his hands at his sides.

The judge gave Mars, whose real name is Peter Gene Hernandez, probation, a \$2,000 fine, 200 hours of community service at a nonprofit organization and eight hours with a drug counselor in Los Angeles.

Walsh set a Jan. 18 date for Mars to return to court.

His Las Vegas lawyer, Rich-



Peter Hernandez, aka Bruno Mars, right, consults with one of his defense attorneys, Blair Berk, during an appearance in court to waive an evidentiary hearing for a felony cocaine possession charge and receive a date in state court for a plea, Friday, Feb. 4, 2011, in Las Vegas.

ard Schonfeld, told the judge that Mars intends to meet the requirements.

Mars, who performed Sunday at the Grammys and took home the award for best male pop vocal performance for his song, declined to comment in

the court hallway.

He acknowledged having 2.6 grams of cocaine when he was arrested in a bathroom early Sept. 19 after a nightclub performance at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas.

Police say he told the arresting officer he never used drugs before.

Mars' Los Angeles lawyer, Blair Berk, has said the singer appreciates the chance he was getting as a first-time offender to have the felony charge dismissed.

The former child entertainer from Hawaii began his career at age 4 as an Elvis impersonator. He moved to Los Angeles in 2002.

His label, Elektra, announced Tuesday that Mars would headline with recording artist Janelle Monae on a North American tour dubbed "Hooligans in Wondaland."

## Group raises \$50,000 for RoboCop statue in Detroit

**DETROIT (AP)**—Your move, Detroit.

A group working to build a statue of the fictional crime-fighting cyborg RoboCop in the city said it has reached its fundraising goal of \$50,000 after a social networking campaign exploded in support of the project. The next step: convincing the mayor and city officials it's a good idea.

"I am very positive that it's gonna happen," organizer Brandon Walley said Wednesday.

The 10-day-old RoboCop saga started innocently enough when Detroit Mayor Dave Bing's social media manager answered a Twitter query about a possible statue. That response—"There are not any plans to erect a statue to RoboCop. Thank you for the suggestion"—led to a firestorm of commentary online, with Twitter users making it a top trending topic for days.

As recently as Wednesday morning, "RoboCop" was still one of the 10 most-searched terms on Yahoo!

Imagination Station, a Detroit-based nonprofit that latched on to the topic's viral fervor, set up a way for backers to donate to the project via the crowd-funding website Kickstarter.

The effort yielded more than \$25,000 in donations. A private source matched the funds, and now Imagination



This 1990 file photo released by Orion Pictures Corp. shows the poster for "Robocop II."

Station has the \$50,000 it has been told it would take to erect such a statue.

Bing, for his part, remains skeptical, and no timetable exists for construction.

"My own personal opinion is that I don't see where we get a lot of value from that," the mayor said.

Walley said he sees potential for the planned 7-foot (2.13-meter) sculpture in the city, hoping RoboCop would draw the curious and tourists, just as the Rocky Balboa likeness does in Philadelphia and the Fonzie statue known as "Bronze Fonz" does in Milwaukee.

Plus, it's just a cool idea, said Walley, 35, who lives

in the city.

"There's definitely a pop icon, kitsch factor to it, for sure, but it's definitely in the light-humorous end. It's not funny in that it's a joke on Detroit or anything like that," he said, referencing fears the statue would play to the perception that Detroit is plagued by crime and violence.

The 1980s science fiction film was set in a futuristic Detroit in which crime ran rampant and centered on police officer Alex Murphy (played by Peter Weller), who is killed in the line of duty and resurrected as an alloy-encased part-man, part-machine being prone to equal parts crime-fighting and butt-kicking.

Weller, who was recently nominated for a Screen Actors Guild Award along with the other members of the "Dexter" cast and is pursuing a Ph.D. in Italian Renaissance art history at UCLA, was clear on one issue: He doesn't care about the statue depicting him personally. On one hand, he says he understands people who say that Detroit has more pressing issues to deal with, but he also sees that it's an emblem of what's great about Detroit, too.

"I think it's a great thing as far as a public service. As far as a personal emblem, it doesn't make any difference to me," he said.

## World's largest toy collection up for sale in US

**NEW YORK (AP)**—You wouldn't want to throw these toys in the playroom bin, even if you had one big enough.

A collection like no other is going on sale: 35,000 vintage toys and trains assembled by an American collector over a period of 50 years. It's so large that 5,000 pieces alone fill the entire floor of Sotheby's auction house in New York, where they are on display until the end of the month.

The collector, Jerry Greene, has kept the collection in five basement rooms of his suburban Philadelphia home, Sotheby's said. He says it's now time to part with it and wants to share it with the world, but

wants to find a buyer who will acquire all of it.

Known as the Jerni Collection, it is considered the largest and most comprehensive toy collection in the world, valued in the tens of millions of dollars, said Sotheby's, which is brokering the sale for Greene. It will not be auctioned.

The toys date from 1850 to 1940 and include rare, hand-made and historically significant European pieces. There are replicas of actual train stations, bridges and buildings destroyed during both world wars. There are also villages, carousels and Ferris wheels.

"I put it together piece by piece, and my quest for the

highest-quality trains and toys took me to thousands of toy fairs and shows" in the United States, Greene said in a statement.

They represent some of the best known European and American makers of the golden age of toy manufacturing, including Marklin, Bing, Ernst Plant Carrette, and Rock & Graner.

Sotheby's said Greene hopes a public institution or individual will acquire all the toys and donate the collection to a museum.

The name Jerni combines the first names of the owner and his wife, Nina, Sotheby's said.

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**Big Momma's Like Father Like Son**

Friday 4:20 7:20 9:40  
Saturday & Sunday 1:20 4:20 7:20 9:40  
Monday 1:20 4:20 7:20  
Tues thru Thurs 4:20 7:20

**Martin Lawrence, Brandon T. Jackson**  
Comedy • Rated PG 13

**Synopsis**

Martin Lawrence returns as FBI agent Malcolm Turner in this third outing in the Big Momma's House series. This entry sees Lawrence's cross-dressing alter-ego, Big Momma, heading to an all-girls school with his nephew, Trent (Brandon T. Jackson), in order to hunt down a murderer. John Whitesell directs off a script by Matthew Fogel.



**I Am Number Four**

Friday 4:25 7:25 9:35  
Saturday & Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:35  
Monday 1:25 4:25 7:25  
Tues thru Thurs 4:25 7:25

**Alex Pettyfer, Timothy Olyphant**  
Science Fiction • Rated PG 13

**Synopsis**

A teenage fugitive with an incredible secret races to stay one step ahead of the mysterious forces seeking to track and destroy him in this sci-fi action thriller from director D.J. Caruso (Disturbia, Eagle Eye). With three dead and one on the run, the race to find the elusive Number Four begins. Outwardly normal teen John Smith (Alex Pettyfer) never gets too comfortable in the same identity, and along with his guardian, Henri (Timothy Olyphant), he is constantly moving from town to town—the perpetual new kid in a series of strangely familiar schools.



**Unknown**

Friday 4:30 7:30 9:55  
Saturday & Sunday 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:55  
Monday 1:30 4:30 7:30  
Tues thru Thurs 4:30 7:30

**Liam Neeson, Diane Kruger**  
Thriller • Rated PG 13

**Synopsis**

A man (Liam Neeson) wakes up from a coma while on a business trip to Europe only to find that some other man has taken his identity and stepped into his life. Diane Kruger and January Jones co-star.



**Just Go With It**

Friday 4:10 7:10 9:50  
Saturday & Sunday 1:10 4:10 7:10 9:50  
Monday 1:10 4:10 7:10  
Tues thru Thurs 4:10 7:10

**Jennifer Aniston, Adam Sandler**  
Comedy • Rated PG 13



**Gnomeo and Juliet**

Friday 4:00 7:00 9:30  
Saturday & Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:30  
Monday 1:00 4:00 7:00  
Tues thru Thurs 4:00 7:00

**James McAvoy, Emily Blunt**  
Musical, Children's/Family • Rated G



**Justin Bieber: Never Say Never**

Friday 4:05 7:05 9:45  
Saturday & Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:45  
Monday 1:05 4:05 7:05  
Tues thru Thurs 4:05 7:05

**Justin Bieber**  
Musical • Rated G



**Sanctum**

Friday 4:15 7:15 10:00  
Saturday & Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:15 10:00  
Monday 1:15 4:15 7:15  
Tues thru Thurs 4:15 7:15

**Richard Roxburgh, Rhys Wakefield**  
Drama • Rated R

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# Investigation of Gibson's ex given to prosecutors

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Sheriff's detectives on Wednesday delivered the results of an extortion investigation involving Mel Gibson's ex-girlfriend to prosecutors.

The district attorney's office will now decide whether to

pursue charges against Oksana Grigorieva in the extortion case, and against the Academy Award winner on domestic violence allegations.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Office previously concluded its investigation into

whether the "Braveheart" star struck Grigorieva during a January 2010 fight.

Grigorieva waited months to report the incident. By then the couple had broken up and reached a confidential agreement regarding custody of their infant daughter.

That accord quickly failed, and the pair have been embroiled in a bitter custody battle in Los Angeles for months.

Detectives began investigating Grigorieva in July after Gibson claimed she tried to extort him while they were working out the child custody agreement. The inquiry was started more than a month after Grigorieva reported she had been hit, and detectives interviewed

Gibson about his claims.

The agency turned over its results in the domestic violence inquiry to prosecutors in August.

Sheriff's spokesman Steve Whitmore refused to say whether detectives were advocating that charges be filed in either case.

"We've given them our investigation," Whitmore said. "It was exhaustive, and we'll wait to confer with them."

Sheriff's detectives have reviewed the contents of Grigorieva's computer and obtained audio recordings filed in the child custody case.

There is no timeframe for the district attorney's office to make a decision on whether to file charges.

## Charlie Sheen says he's a stand-up guy on his show

NEW YORK (AP)—Charlie Sheen says he's never been drunk or high on the set of his hit sitcom, and that he knows how to deal with a lack of sleep.

In an interview aired Wednesday, the star of CBS' "Two and a Half Men" said he had sometimes shown up for work after long nights carousing.

Sheen explained that he would ask the director to let him stand beside a piece of

furniture during run-throughs so he wouldn't fall over. He joked that his tactic was the sign of "a seasoned professional."

Production of "Two and a Half Men" has been halted while Sheen is in rehab. He said production would resume at the end of February.

Sheen had phoned into "The Dan Patrick Show," which airs in syndication on radio and on satellite TV provider DirecTV.



Sheen

## 'Seinfeld' actor Len Lesser dies at 88

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Len Lesser, the veteran character actor best known for his scene-stealing role as Uncle Leo on "Seinfeld," died Wednesday. He was 88.

Lesser's family said in a statement that he died in Burbank, Calif., from cancer-related pneumonia.

"Heaven got a great comedian and actor today," his daughter, Michele, said in the statement. "The outpouring of sympathy we've already received has been amazing and is so greatly appreciated. Thank you to all the people who helped make my father's last journey special and surrounded with love."

Lesser's lengthy list of television credits included parts on "Get Smart," "That Girl," "The Munsters," "The Monkees," "The Rockford Files," "thirtysomething," "ER," and

"Everybody Loves Raymond," which featured Lesser in a recurring role as the arm-shaking Garvin. His film credits included "Outlaw Josey Wales," "Kelly's Heroes," "Birdman of Alcatraz" and "Death Hunt." He most recently appeared on the TV drama "Castle."

He is survived by his daughter, Michele; son, David; daughter-in-law, Julie; and grandchildren, Jonathan, Kayla, and Mayah.



Lesser



## \$17 MILLION PAINTING

AP This image, released by Christie's in London on Wednesday Feb. 16, 2011, showing a self-portrait by Andy Warhol, has sold for 10.8 million pounds (\$17 million)—double its pre-sale estimate—at a London auction. Christie's says the work had been in a private collection since 1974. It is one of a series of 11 self-portraits Warhol created. The image of red and white silkscreen ink on canvas shows the artist with his hand to his mouth. It was executed in 1967, at the height of his career as the most important figure in American Pop Art. Christie's says the portrait was bought by an anonymous bidder in its London auction room Wednesday.

## Conservative woman needs to find like-minded friends

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: I am a very conservative woman. I don't drink, dance, wear makeup or pants. I enjoy the company of friends despite our differences and thought they enjoyed mine.

On our most recent outing, however, they mocked my religious jewelry, commented on my "lack of fashion," and made me feel guilty for not wanting to stay out late.

Despite this, they are great friends and would help me at the drop of a hat. I don't bring up their being overweight, or that I think some of the clothes they wear are ugly. I don't criticize them for sleeping around. I wish they would accept me for who I am.

I am considering not going out with them the next time they ask, but I don't really want it to come to that. Any suggestions?  
JUST AN OLD-FASHIONED GIRL

**DEAR OLD-FASHIONED:** Just this: It's time for you to start cultivating relationships with people whose values are more like your own. The friends you have described may be lovely, but their comments were out of line and folks are known by the company they keep. If you spend a lot of time with the women you have described, people will begin to make assumptions about YOU.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: Two of my children, ages 28 and 30 and college-educated, have what they call "bill paying anxiety." It doesn't matter if they have the money or not, they find it difficult to pay their bills. They have both lost their licenses for not paying traffic tickets, but that hasn't taught either one of them a lesson. Any advice on how to help them?

ANXIOUS MOM IN WASHINGTON

**DEAR MOM:** How long have those two been out from under your roof? Did you pay all their expenses until recently? Your "children" aren't children anymore. They have reached an age when they must now learn from their mistakes. When they're ready to assume responsibility for their actions, they'll do what other adults who are in this kind of hot water do: They will seek financial or psychological counseling and recognize that acting like ostriches will not fix their problems, and neither will Mama.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My 24-year-old daughter, "Evy," is falling to the rocky bottom. She has taken advantage of everyone in our family. She thinks she's the victim instead of realizing she is the problem.

She's planning to marry "Dave," a man she has known for only six months. She refuses to consider his past criminal record of domestic abuse. Abby, this man has several children, one of whom he does not acknowledge.

Am I wrong to be involved in this wedding? I feel it would be a mistake to be "supportive" when I'm totally against it. Dave has pushed her already, and I know what lies ahead for her if she goes through with this marriage. Also, her behavior has changed drastically since she has been involved with him.

TO BE OR NOT TO BE ... THE MOTHER OF THE BRIDE

**DEAR T.B. OR N.T.B.:** You will always be your daughter's mother, but you don't have to bless this marriage with your presence. Some people have to learn their lessons the hard way, and your daughter appears to be one of them. She needs to understand that while you do not approve of Dave, you love her. Keep the lines of communication open because she is going to need you in the future.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■■■

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby – Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

## ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

### Michael Vick cancels appearance on Winfrey's show

CHICAGO (AP) — American football player Michael Vick will not be appearing on "The Oprah Winfrey Show" after all. A show spokesman said Wednesday representatives of the National Football League star called late Tuesday to cancel his appearance for personal reasons. The daytime talk show host's interview with Vick was set to air Thursday, Feb. 24. The interview was to cover Vick's time in prison, his work with the Humane Society and his return to the NFL. Vick missed two seasons and served 18 months in federal prison for a dogfighting operation based on his property in Virginia. He was reinstated to the NFL for the 2009 season and has been doing public service work, including with the Humane Society.

### Mary J. Blige, Kanye West to headline Essence Fest

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Fan favorites Mary J. Blige, Trey Songz, Jill Scott and rapper Kanye West are among the headliners for the 2011 Essence Music Festival. The 17th annual New Orleans festival will celebrate the roots of rhythm and blues. Michelle Ebanks, president of Essence Communications Inc., says the lineup also will include Charlie Wilson, Fantasia, Boyz II Men, Stephanie Mills, Macy Gray, Dwele, Alexander O'Neal & Cherrille, Mint Condition, Kelly Price, M.C. Lyte and George Clinton and Parliament Funkadelic. More artists will be added later to the lineup. The festival is July 1-3 at the Louisiana Superdome. A number of local stars, including Irma Thomas, Kourtney Heart, the Charmaine Neville Band and Rebirth Brass Band also are scheduled to perform.

### Star pleads no contest to drunken driving in US

FORT PIERCE, Florida (AP) — Former teen idol David Cassidy will serve a year of probation and have his driving privileges suspended for six months after pleading no contest to driving under the influence on Florida's Turnpike. The attorney for the 60-year-old "Partridge Family" star entered the plea at a hearing Wednesday. Cassidy did not have to appear in court because the charge was a misdemeanor and he has no prior record. Cassidy was arrested on Nov. 3 after a Florida Highway Patrol trooper saw his car weaving near Fort Pierce. The highway patrol report says Cassidy failed a field sobriety test. Breath tests at the St. Lucie County jail showed his blood-alcohol content at 0.139 and 0.141, levels that are higher than Florida's legal limit of 0.08.

### Waka Flocka Flame questioned after NC shooting

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Police say they are investigating a shootout in North Carolina involving rapper Waka Flocka Flame that left one person wounded. Police told The Charlotte Observer that the 24-year-old rapper, whose real name is Juaquin Malphurs, was at Car Stereo Warehouse Wednesday afternoon. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police spokesman Rob Tufano says two vehicles drove into the store's parking lot around 4 p.m. as the rapper spoke with fans. Tufano says the men in the car and people in the rapper's party exchanged gunfire. Police say one person was shot in the shoulder and had non-life-threatening injuries. No charges have been filed. The paper reports Waka Flaka Flame and three other men were questioned. Tufano didn't immediately return a phone call to The Associated Press seeking further comment.



# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

## Garfield®

By Jim Davis

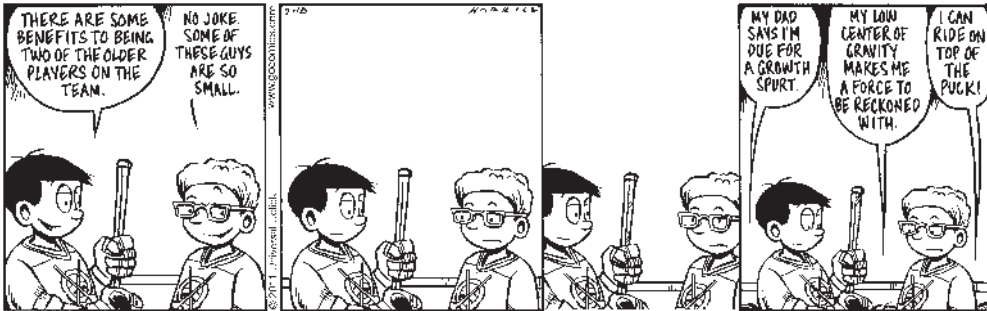


## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Memo-rized  
4 Round Table address  
7 Old hat  
12 "... — on forever": Tennyson  
13 Praise in verse  
14 "American Idol" runner-up  
15 Burst  
16 "Forget it"  
18 Mound stat  
19 Steam room  
20 Bronx cheer  
22 Writer  
23 Super-man's alias  
27 Golfer Ernie  
29 Jaundiced  
31 Zero-star movies  
34 New Orleans stew  
35 Ducks  
37 Drunkard

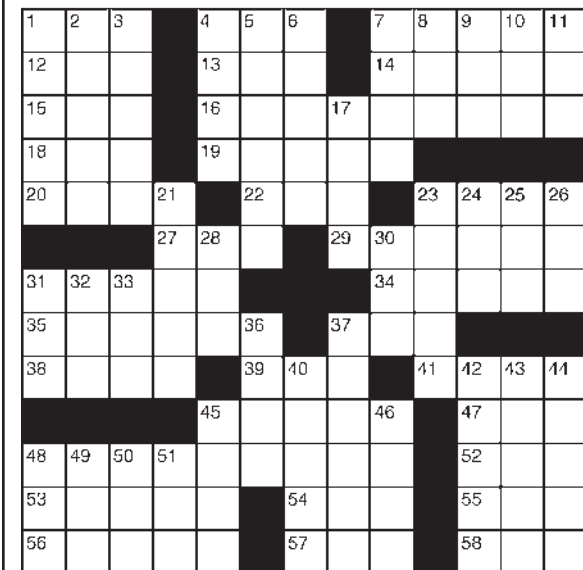
**DOWN**

1 Hamelin musician  
2 Old market-place  
3 November birthstone  
4 Half the offspring  
5 Standards of perfection  
6 Skit show  
7 Legal worker, for short  
8 Intent  
9 Schuss  
10 D.C. address  
11 Conclusion  
17 Grandson of Eve  
21 Striped equine  
23 Ungraceful one  
24 Shade provider  
25 San Francisco's — Hill  
26 Pair  
28 W.W.II craft  
30 Of old  
31 Awful  
32 Eggs  
33 Encoun-tered  
36 Take to the pool  
37 Caught  
40 Type of switch  
42 Nebraska city  
43 Bottom point  
44 Wear away  
45 Pharma-ceutical  
46 Singer McEntire  
48 Run-down horse  
49 Tokyo's old name  
50 Leon Uris' "QB —"  
51 Still, in verse

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

A	L	L	P	Y	E	P	U	N	S		
L	E	E	R	A	I	N	A	T	O	P	
P	A	T	D	O	W	N	S	R	A	N	
D	I	M	G	U	N	S	H	O			
S	H	O	P	P	E	E	O	N			
H	O	W	T	A	B	W	I	R	E	S	
J	S	N	T	R	U	M	P	U	T		
A	E	S	O	P	S	A	M	B	A	Y	
I	M	P	E	A	C	H	A	G	O		
R	C	A	R	H	O	C	D	O	W	N	S
O	R	S	O	E	U	R	O	N	I	L	
N	E	S	S	D	R	A	W	S	P	Y	

Yesterday's answer 2-18



## STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5951! 99c per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Shane Lyons, 23; Molly Ringwald, 43; John Travolta, 57; Yoko Ono, 78

**Happy Birthday:** Compassion and understanding will get you past any opposition. Be ready to embark on any opportunity that ensures your financial and professional security. Focus on your goals and don't stop until you get the results you require to take care of any setbacks you incurred in the past. Your numbers are 3, 5, 16, 24, 30, 33, 48

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Tie up loose ends at work or apply for a position that will bring you greater stability. Don't let what other people do or say bother you. You'll be overly sensitive and must avoid overreacting. \*\*\*

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Give and take, sharing ideas and expanding your knowledge with like-minded people will help you realize the possibilities within reach. A gentle nudge will grab the attention of someone who interests you. \*\*\*\*\*

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Put in a solid day of work and you will reap the rewards. Advancement is likely to be offered in an unusual setting or while socializing with colleagues. Poor health or a mishap will occur if you overdo it physically. \*\*

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Look forward and forget about the things you cannot change. Experiment with different lifestyles or ways of doing things. Finding where and how you fit in best will bring beneficial results. \*\*\*\*

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Don't let confusion cause you to miss out on a financial deal. You stand to lose if you aren't upfront about what you intend to do. Any emotional deception around money, contracts, settlements or legal matters will create a problem. \*\*\*

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Spend more time with the people you love or socialize in order to find someone you want to get to know better. Love and romance are evident but, if you don't make a move, you aren't likely to enjoy the moment. \*\*\*

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Too much dwelling on the past or worrying about what hasn't been working for you is a waste of time. Engage in hobbies or interests you find inspiring or that will boost your confidence and help you develop a positive attitude. \*\*\*

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Don't let anyone play emotional mind games with you. Deception is apparent and must be dealt with quickly. Change may be required if you want to pursue new goals. \*\*\*\*

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** The more involved you become in something that interests you, the easier it will be to incorporate change into your personal and professional life. Friends, neighbors and relatives can contribute with advice. \*\*\*\*\*

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Keep a close watch on your belongings, assets, contracts or pending settlements or legal matters. Someone is likely to use emotional tactics to get something from you.

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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Refrain from making a move or divulging your thoughts if you feel uncertain or uncomfortable with a situation. \*\*\*

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Take care of your health and well-being. Taking on too much responsibility can have negative results. Keeping a low profile will help you regain stability in your life and help you choose a better course of action in the future. \*\*\*

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Your changing plans and chameleon-like attitude will send mixed messages, personally and professionally. Pick a direction or a plan that is yours, not someone else's, and stick to it or you may disappoint someone you care about. \*\*\*

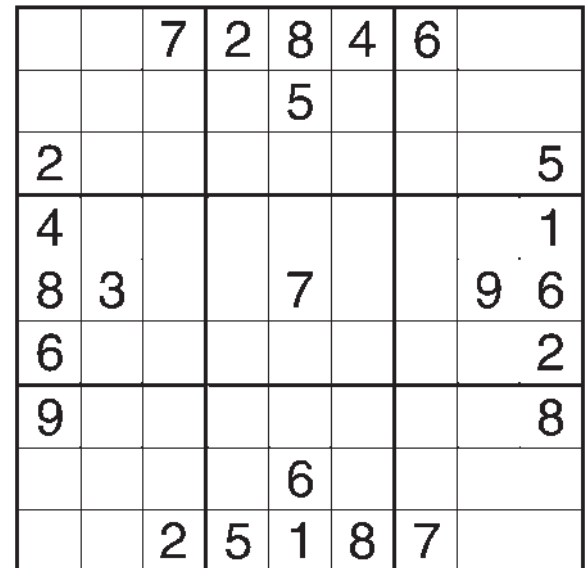
**Birthday Baby:** You are a born leader. You don't like taking orders and will always follow your own path. You are articulate and intent on reaching your life goals.

Eugenia's Web sites: [eugenialast.com](http://eugenialast.com) for confidential consultations, [myspace.com/eugenialast](http://myspace.com/eugenialast) for Eugenia's blog, [astroadvice.com](http://astroadvice.com) for fun

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

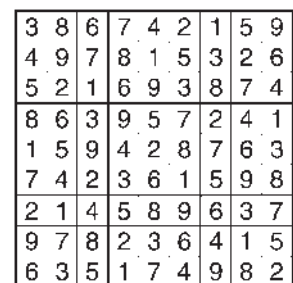


Difficulty Level ★★★★★

2/18

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★★

2/17

## WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

CHEESE PLEASE!

Solution: 7 letters



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2/18  
Aged, Babybel, Bagel, Bleu, Bocconcini, Bold, Brick, Brie, Burrata, Camembert, Cantonnier, Cheese, Chef, Cook, Coon, Cougar Gold, Creamy, Crumble, Curd, Dairy, Damablan, Farmer, Fiscalini, Fresh, Friulano, Goat, Gouda, Homemade, Malt, Mild, Milk, Mold, Monterey Jack, Organic, Pepper Jack, Plain, Salt, Selection, Slice, Soft, Sourness, Taste, Velveta

Yesterday's Answer: Discuss



# CLASSIFIED ADS



## CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

### CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	<b>\$15</b>	<b>\$27</b>
• 5-Liner	<b>\$24</b>	<b>\$39</b>
• 3-Liner with picture	<b>\$24</b>	<b>\$42</b>
• 5-Liner with picture	<b>\$36</b>	<b>\$57</b>

### ADVERTISING DEADLINE

#### Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

#### Saturday Issue:

- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

### CANCELLATION

#### Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

### REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

### CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

### ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

# WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

# AUDIENCE

www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in this section

**FOR INQUIRIES:**  
Please call MMC office at 235-8980

**OLEAI-CENTER COMMERCIAL SPACES  
FOR LEASE**

**WANTED**  
**ALL-AROUND  
BEAUTICIAN**  
*Hair Clinique*  
in Arizona Bldg., Susupe  
Tel.: 234-8678/285-8678

Garage sale this Sunday, 2/20/11  
south of Sister Remedios  
Pre-School in Chalan Kanoa from  
9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Clothing, yard  
equipment and variety of items  
will be on sale at low prices

**2008 NISSAN ALTIMA 2.5 S**

4 CYLINDER · POWER DOOR, LOCKS &  
WINDOWS · AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION  
W/ AIRCON · CD PLAYER · NEW TIRES  
49K MILES · EXCELLENT CONDITION

**\$14,200.00**

CALL: 285-5863



is seeking qualified applicants for the following positions:

#### RUSSIAN SPEAKING STAFF

In this role you must be able to read, write and speak Russian. You need to enjoy working with people, assisting customers and have good communication skills. Must be able to work A & B Shifts as well as weekends and holidays.

#### FRONT DESK SUPERVISOR (Korean Speaking)

Applicants must have a minimum of 1 year work experience in the hospitality field. MUST be able to read, write and speak Korean. Must be able to work A, B & C shifts as well as weekends and holidays.

*PIC Employment Applications* are available at the Security Desk and must be submitted no later than February 25, 2011.

Pacific Islands Club Saipan is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

## ACCOUNTANT

#### Candidates are to have the following minimum qualifications:

- Bachelor's Degree in Finance/Accounting; CPA preferred;
- Three years of progressive management experience preferably in telephony accounting;
- Experience with payroll processing and accounts payable, including enforcement of company policies and adherence to company procedures;
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- Possess strong analytical ability;
- Effective oral and written communications skills;
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Saipan Tribune



# Cavaliers avenge 55-point defeat against Lakers

**CLEVELAND (AP)**—Looking nothing like two-time defending NBA champions, the Lakers dropped their third straight game, a stunning 104-99 loss Wednesday to the Cleveland Cavaliers — the league's worst team, which avenged a 55-point embarrassment against Los Angeles last month.

Ramon Sessions came off the bench and scored a season-high 32 points for the Cavs, who were beaten 112-57 by the Lakers on Jan. 11. That loss was No. 11 in a league-record streak that eventually reached 26 before Cleveland ended it last week with an overtime win against L.A.'s less-heralded squad, the Clippers.

Pau Gasol had 30 points and 20 rebounds for the Lakers.

## Celtics 94, Nets 80

At Boston, Paul Pierce bounced back from one of the worst games of his career with 31 points to help Boston head into the All-Star break with the best record in the East.

Pierce, who was 0 for 10 and had one point in Sunday's victory over Miami, scored seven points during a 16-0 run late in the fourth quarter as the Celtics turned a one-point deficit into a blowout.

Brook Lopez scored 18 points and Devin Harris had 16 for the Nets.

## Heat 103, Raptors 95

At Toronto, Dwyane Wade scored 28 points, and LeBron James had 23 points, 13 rebounds and eight assists for Miami.

Chris Bosh scored 25 points in his first game in Toronto against his former team, which lost for the 17th time in 19 games.

Andrea Bargnani scored 17 of his 38 points in the fourth quarter and DeMar DeRozan finished with 24, but the Raptors never led after the first 6 minutes of the game.



Cleveland Cavaliers' Ramon Sessions (3) drives to the basket against Los Angeles Lakers' Pau Gasol in the second half of an NBA basketball game in Cleveland on Wednesday, Feb. 16, 2011.

## Mavericks 116, Kings 100

At Dallas, Jason Kidd scored 17 points in the third quarter and Rodrigue Beaubois lived up to high expectations for his season debut with 13 points and six assists for Dallas.

Jermaine Taylor had 17 points as Sacramento lost its seventh in eight games.

## Magic 101, Wizards 76

At Orlando, Florida, Dwight Howard had 32 points and 10 rebounds for his 45th double-double of the season as Orlando won its second and fourth in five games.

Jason Richardson added 16 points and Ryan Anderson chipped in 14 for Orlando.

John Wall scored 27 points and

Andray Blatche had 15 points and nine rebounds for the Wizards.

## Nuggets 94, Bucks 87

At Milwaukee, Carmelo Anthony scored 38 points and grabbed 12 rebounds to help Denver to a much needed win after losses in four of its previous five games.

Anthony was 16 of 30 from the field and Chauncey Billups scored nine of his 20 points in the fourth quarter for the Nuggets.

John Salmons scored a season-high 33 points and Andrew Bogut grabbed 20 rebounds for Milwaukee.

## Knicks 102, Hawks 90

At New York, Amare Stou-

demire scored 23 points to lead New York into the All-Star break with a winning record.

Wilson Chandler added 20 points and Danilo Gallinari had 17 for the Knicks, who at 28-26 matched their average victory total for the last five full seasons.

Marvin Williams scored 17 points for the Hawks, who lost for the third time in four games.

## Trail Blazers 103, Hornets 96

At Portland, Oregon, LaMarcus Aldridge scored 34 points to help Portland win its season-high sixth straight game.

Wesley Matthews added 24 points for Portland, which has been able to win despite

injuries to three-time All-Star Brandon Roy and starting center Marcus Camby.

David West had 27 points and Willie Green added 24 for the Hornets.

## Clippers 98, Timberwolves 90

At Minneapolis, Blake Griffin stole the show in a matchup of All-Star power forwards with 29 points, eight rebounds and five assists to lead Los Angeles past Minnesota.

Former Timberwolves player Randy Foye scored 21 points and Ryan Gomes added 18 to help the Clippers to just their second win on an eight-game road trip.

All-Star Kevin Love had 18 points and 18 rebounds for his 42nd double-double in a row.

## Pistons 115, Pacers 109, OT

At Auburn Hills, Michigan, Tayshaun Prince had 25 points and 11 rebounds as Detroit held on after blowing a 10-point lead in fourth quarter.

Indiana's Darren Collison tied the game with 15.4 seconds left. Prince had the ball in the final seconds of regulation with a chance to win it, but didn't get

a good shot off or the foul he wanted from the officials.

Roy Hibbert matched a career high with 29 points and Danny Granger scored 28 for Indiana.

## Warriors 107, Jazz 100

At Salt Lake City, Monta Ellis scored 35 points as Golden State kept new Utah head coach Ty Corbin winless since Jerry Sloan retired.

Al Jefferson scored 23 points, Paul Millsap added 22 and C.J. Miles 20 for the Jazz, who head into the All-Star break without any momentum after dropping 13 of their last 17.

## 76ers 114, Rockets 105

At Houston, Jrue Holiday scored 20 points to lead seven 76ers in double-figures as Philadelphia rallied from an early 12-point deficit to beat Houston.

Lou Williams and Thaddeus Young scored 19 points apiece, Spencer Hawes had 17 points and 10 rebounds, and Andre Iguodala had 13 points, 12 rebounds and 10 assists for the 76ers.

Kyle Lowry scored a career-high 36 points and Luis Scola added 26 points and 13 rebounds for the Rockets.

## NBA BRIEFS

### Grizzlies' Gay out four weeks with partially dislocated left shoulder

**MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)**—Grizzlies forward Rudy Gay will miss at least four weeks with a left shoulder injury, a potentially serious blow to Memphis' playoff chances. Gay suffered the injury in the second quarter of Tuesday night's 102-91 win against the Philadelphia 76ers. An MRI Wednesday showed a partial dislocation of the shoulder. The 6-foot-8 forward will begin rehabilitation in a week and be re-evaluated in four weeks, the team said Wednesday in a statement. Gay is averaging 19.8 points per game and six rebounds per game. His loss is troublesome for the Grizzlies because they are in the middle of a four game winning streak and are currently vying with the Utah Jazz and Denver Nuggets for the last playoff spot in the Western Conference. Memphis is trying to reach the playoffs for the first time since the 2005-2006 season. The team is off for the All-Star break. Gay has been a reliable scorer late in games for the Grizzlies, hitting several important shots. He dropped in a tie-breaking jump shot with less than a second to play in a Jan. 24 victory against Toronto, and his high-arching basket over LeBron James gave the Grizzlies an win at home against the Miami Heat on Nov. 20. Gay, a five-year veteran who played in college at Connecticut, signed a five year, \$82

million contract this past offseason. Gay was injured with 5:29 left in the second quarter as he drove across the lane during Tuesday's game. He was fouled by Evan Turner, and was on the court in pain after the foul. Memphis called timeout, and Gay returned to the game only long enough to shoot one-handed free throws because he could not lift his left arm. He made one of two free throws to give Memphis a 41-26 lead before play was stopped on a foul by Grizzlies guard Mike Conley to get Gay out of the game.

### Pistons owner 'cautiously optimistic' about sale

**AUBURN HILLS, Mich. (AP)**—Detroit Pistons owner Karen Davidson says she's cautiously optimistic the sale of the team will be completed soon. Davidson spoke with The Associated Press at halftime Wednesday night of the Indiana Pacers-Pistons game. The NBA team and California billionaire Tom Gores have been negotiating exclusively with each other. Davidson, widow of longtime owner Bill Davidson, has been considering a sale of the team by itself or as part of a package with Palace Sports and Entertainment, which includes The Palace of Auburn Hills, DTE Energy Music Theatre and Meadow Brook Music Festival. Gores is from Michigan, graduated from Michigan State and lives in California. Forbes recently valued the Pistons at \$360 million.

# Bobcats remove interim tag from coach Paul Silas

**CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (AP)**—The Bobcats removed the interim tag from coach Paul Silas by rewarding him with a one-year extension on Wednesday after he helped get Charlotte into NBA playoff contention following a miserable start under Larry Brown.

"It's a very exciting day for me knowing I'll be here this year and next year and have a chance to really make this team special," Silas said. "There's a long way to go, but we're getting there."

Owner Michael Jordan's decision comes less than two months after he fired Brown following Charlotte's 9-19 start that left a fractured team. Guard Stephen Jackson said a change was needed because "nobody wanted to play" for the demanding Brown, who had routinely criticized his players.



Charlotte Bobcats head coach Paul Silas, right, tries to make a point with NBA referee Steve Javie against the Atlanta Hawks in the second half of an NBA basketball game, Saturday, Jan. 22, 2011, in Charlotte, N.C.

The 67-year-old Silas brought a calming influence and a more up tempo, free-flowing style. He's led the Bobcats to a 15-13 mark to get within 1 1/2

games of the Indiana Pacers for the final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

Silas believes the Bobcats have a "very good shot" at mak-

ing the postseason for the second straight season.

"My main goal when I took this job was to change the atmosphere, change the attitude and make the team more confident," Silas said. "I think we've begun to accomplish those goals."

Silas, a bruising rebounder who played 16 seasons in the NBA, hadn't coached in the league for five years and survived a health scare three years ago that left him with life-threatening blood clots. Healthy again, he's been able to turn a temporary position into a permanent job for the second time in Charlotte with two teams.

Silas was interim coach of the Charlotte Hornets in 1999 after Dave Cowens quit before getting the job full-time. Silas pulled off the feat again with the Bobcats.



# Pujols deadline passes with no deal



**JUPITER, Fla. (AP)**—The St. Louis Cardinals made Albert Pujols what they said was their best offer.

It wasn't enough.

So get ready, baseball: Pujols seems headed for the open market next fall.

The deadline Pujols set for the Cardinals to reach a new contract agreement passed Wednesday with no deal, making it likely the three-time MVP will become a free agent after the World Series. The Cardinals said they will respect Pujols' wishes and not request more talks during the season, unless their first baseman surprisingly changes his mind.

"A difference of opinion in determining Albert's value simply could not be resolved," said Pujols' agent, Dan Lozano.

The Cardinals would not reveal their offer, though it was believed to be somewhere around \$200 million for eight years, possibly with an opportunity for Pujols to obtain an ownership stake in the franchise once his playing days are complete.

When—and if—talks resume, it's unclear if St. Louis will increase its offer to Pujols' liking.

"We explored a number of different things in the negotiation," Cardinals chairman William DeWitt Jr. said at a news conference. "Without getting specific in what those were, there was discussion about other things that could be part of the contract. ... You can be sure that we explored a number of different avenues."

Pujols will make \$16 million this season in his contract's final year, with \$4 million of the money deferred with no interest. A nine-time All-Star, Pujols is the only player in major league history to hit 30 or more home runs each of his first 10 seasons—all with the Cardinals,



St. Louis Cardinals owner William DeWitt Jr. speaks during a spring training baseball news conference Wednesday, Feb. 16, 2011, in Jupiter, Fla. AP

the franchise he's previously said he wants to remain with for the rest of his career.

Now, that hardly seems like a lock.

"I don't think there's a better guy for us to have on the team," Cardinals teammate Skip Schumaker said. "He's the face of the franchise. You respect both sides of it. You respect what the Cardinals are doing, you respect the management and what Albert's agent is doing. It's a tough situation, as everybody knows. He's an iconic player."

Pujols is expected to be in Cardinals' camp on Thursday, two days ahead of when position players were asked to report. Lozano said Pujols does not want to discuss his contract status either now or during the season.

Nor, for that matter, does St. Louis manager Tony La Russa.

"We don't want to get our minds cluttered as a team," La Russa said. "There's enough to do. ... The competition in the Central and the National League has got our complete attention. And that's just what we're going to think about. You can choose what you think about. That's what we're going to think about."

Already, there's buzz around baseball on where Pujols could go. A big-spending club like the Red Sox, Yankees or Angels? Perhaps the rival Cubs? The Texas Rangers?

Before the first pitch of the season, the first debate of the 2011 offseason is underway.

"Goes on the open market, who knows what he'll

get?" said Cubs right-hander Braden Loper, a former Pujols teammate.

Added Rockies right-hander Aaron Cook: "I'm surprised something didn't get done. He has the right to become a free agent and get what he wants. I hope for their sake it doesn't become a distraction."

The only absolute in the process, it seems, is what the Cardinals will give.

In short, they aren't prepared to set records. The team's payroll this season will be between \$100 million and \$110 million, DeWitt said, noting that the Cardinals lack the revenue streams to keep up with baseball's biggest checkbooks.

"We're not the Yankees or the Red Sox or the clubs that have revenues multi-tens of millions

of dollars greater than ours," he said. "How they react remains to be seen. They're great fans. They're the best in baseball. To draw the way we draw in a market the size of ours is extraordinary. No one else can do it. Cardinal fans, they step up year in and year out."

There is no framework for a deal in which St. Louis would get the right of first refusal on any future Pujols offer. Still, the Cardinals believe a deal can eventually get done - and aren't fearing that it will turn into a situation where Pujols simply winds up playing for the highest bidder.

"We know what we can do and what we can't do," general manager John Mozeliak said. "When you operate in that way, you tend not to make

bigger mistakes."

The closest Pujols came to an appearance at camp Wednesday morning was a sighting of his black pickup with Missouri license plates in the parking lot of the team's spring training complex.

Pujols was not with the vehicle.

"It really doesn't matter to us," said Cardinals pitcher and union rep Kyle McClellan, when asked about the ongoing Pujols contract watch. "It's none of our business. It's none of anybody's business. ... The truth is, I've never been on the mound and thinking of Albert Pujols' contract."

La Russa said Tuesday that he believes Pujols was feeling pressure from the union to "set the bar" with his next deal. The baseball record is Alex Rodriguez's \$275 million, 10-year pact with the New York Yankees.

On Wednesday, La Russa insisted that he'd said too much already - then, moments later, reiterated his words from a day earlier.

"I said if I was running the union or part of the union, I'm not sure I'd handle it any different," La Russa said, about two hours before the noon deadline passed.

Union officials have denied pressuring Pujols or Lozano.

Pujols has a .331 career batting average and averaged 41 homers and 123 RBIs. He's also won six Silver Slugger Awards and two Gold Gloves. Last year he batted .312 with 42 homers and 118 RBIs and finished second in MVP balloting.

"I'm not really concerned about having any issues with Albert in the short-term, or in the long-term for that matter," Mozeliak said. "In terms of the fan base, I hope they understand and recognize that we put a very strong effort out there to try and get something done."

## MLB BRIEFS

### Padres RHP Mat Latos signs balls with 'I hate SF'

**PEORIA, Ariz. (AP)**—San Diego Padres pitcher Mat Latos took a little jab at San Francisco, all in the name of charity. A San Diego-area memorabilia store advertised three baseballs with Latos' signature and the words "I hate SF" below. The balls sold for \$1,100, with half going to the Major League Baseball Players Alumni Association. Latos and the Padres were eliminated from playoff contention by the San Francisco Giants on the final day of the season last year. The Giants took the NL West title over San Diego and went on to win the World Series. Latos said he only intended to raise money for charity and meant no harm with the autographs. "I did it all in fun," he said Wednesday.

"No disrespect to them. But it's not going to matter what I say because people are going to take it however they want." Latos, who turned 23 in December, took the loss in the season finale at San Francisco but was a big reason the Padres were such a surprising success last year. The right-hander went 14-10 with a 2.92 ERA and 189 strikeouts in 31 starts. He also established a major league record by making 15 straight starts of five or more innings with two earned runs or less allowed from June 10 to Sept. 7.

**Source: Bautista, Jays agree to \$65M deal**  
**SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP)**—A person familiar with the negotiations says the Toronto Blue Jays and major league home run leader

Jose Bautista have reached an agreement on a five-year, \$65 million contract. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the team was not set to make an official announcement. That is expected to come Thursday. The Blue Jays opened spring training in Dunedin, Fla., earlier this week. The 30-year-old Bautista led the majors with 54 homers last season and was eligible for arbitration. His hearing was postponed Monday at the request of both parties and a Friday deadline to reach an agreement was set. Bautista had requested \$10.5 million in arbitration. The Blue Jays had offered \$7.6 million. Bautista's seventh major league season ranks as one of the biggest breakouts in baseball history. He nearly matched his career home run total of 59

coming into the season, drove in 124 runs and scored 109 with a .260 average. He had never hit more than 16 homers nor driven in more than 63 runs in a season. He played mostly right field for Toronto last season, though he also appeared in 45 games at third base and is expected to start this season there. He was acquired by the Blue Jays from the Pittsburgh Pirates during the 2008 season. He has also played for Baltimore, Kansas City and Tampa Bay.

### Young, Twins agree at \$5,375,000

**MINNEAPOLIS (AP)**—Outfielder Delmon Young and the Minnesota Twins avoided salary arbitration by agreeing Wednesday to a one-year contract worth \$5,375,000. The deal was just below the midpoint of the \$6.25

million Young had asked for and the \$4.65 million the Twins had offered when players and teams exchanged proposed arbitration figures last month. Young hit .298 last year with 46 doubles, 21 homers and 112 RBIs, and he made \$2.65 million. Two players remain in arbitration—Toronto outfielder Jose Bautista and Houston outfielder Hunter Pence—with hearings scheduled through Friday. Players and owners have split the two cases already decided, with Pittsburgh pitcher Ross Ohlendorf winning and Los Angeles Angels pitcher Jered Weaver losing.

### Rangers RHP Beltre needs surgery for spine problem

**SURPRISE, Ariz. (AP)**—Texas Rangers pitcher Omar Beltre has been diagnosed with a ge-

netic narrowing of the spine and will have surgery next Tuesday. Rangers assistant general manager Thad Levine said Beltre has a condition called spinal stenosis. Beltre will spend a few days in Texas after surgery before flying to Arizona to be with the team. "Rehab is about six-to-eight weeks before he will commence with baseball activities. This is going to be a little work in progress," Levine said Wednesday. "We have historically not found a baseball player who had this surgery, so we don't know exactly what recovery time is." Or if the 29-year-old right-hander will even be able to pitch again. "It's unknown at this point," Levine said. "It's a condition more known in older people. This is something of uncharted waters for a professional athlete."



# Armstrong officially off bike—'Retirement 2.0'

By **JIM LITKE**  
AP SPORTS WRITER

Almost a month after finishing 65th in his last competitive race in Australia, and nearly six years removed from the last of an unprecedented seven straight Tour de France titles, the 39-year-old cyclist made clear there is no reset button this time.

This time, he's leaving professional racing behind for good.

"Never say never," Armstrong laughed at the start of an exclusive interview Tuesday with The Associated Press, then quickly added, "Just kidding."

His retirement ends a comeback effort that failed to produce an eighth title or diminish talk that performance-enhancing drugs helped his career. The timing has as much to do with his growing responsibilities and family as it does with the physical limitations time has imposed. He's tired, and tired of being hounded. Armstrong will miss competing—let alone dominating a sport like none before him—but not the 24/7/365 training regimen that made it possible.

"I can't say I have any regrets. It's been an excellent ride. I really thought I was going to win another tour," Armstrong said about his comeback attempt in 2009, four

years after his first retirement. "Then I lined up like everybody else and wound up third.

"I have no regrets about last year, either," he added, despite finishing 23rd. "The crashes, the problems with the bike - those were things that were beyond my control."

Armstrong spoke to the AP in a telephone interview and in a videotaped interview from his office in Austin, Texas.

Armstrong zoomed out of relative obscurity after a life-threatening bout with testicular cancer to win his first tour in 1999, then set about recalibrating both the popularity of his sport and how much influence athletes can wield as advocates for a cause—in his case, on behalf of cancer survivors and researchers worldwide.

International Cycling Union President Pat McQuaid had high praise for Armstrong.

"His contribution to cycling has been enormous, from both the sporting point of view and his personality. All sports need global icons and he has become a global icon for cycling," said McQuaid, speaking to The Associated Press by telephone from the Tour of Oman. "The sport of cycling has a lot to be thankful for because of Lance Armstrong."

Along the way, Armstrong also became one of the most

controversial figures in the evolving battle against doping in sports. He claims to be the most-tested athlete on the planet during his career. Armstrong came back clean every time, and vehemently denies ever using performance-enhancing drugs.

Even so, he remains shadowed by a federal investigation into the sport launched last year following accusations by former teammate and disgraced 2006 tour champion Floyd Landis that Armstrong used drugs and taught other riders how to beat testing. Though the probe is continuing, lawyers familiar with the case told the AP recently that any possible indictments are a long way off.

"I can't control what goes on in regards to the investigation. That's why I hire people to help me with that. I try not to let it bother me and just keep rolling right along. I know what I know," Armstrong said. "I know what I do and I know what I did. That's not going to change."

What won't change, either, is his tenacious campaigning to raise funds and awareness in the fight against a disease his doctors once believed would keep Armstrong from competing at anything more

strenuous than gin rummy.

That was 1996. A year later, he set up the Livestrong Foundation and raised \$10,000. In the intervening years, Armstrong used his story, his celebrity and hard work to sell millions of those ubiquitous plastic yellow wrist bracelets and enlist lawmakers in Texas and global policymakers on the scale of Bill Clinton in the cause.

By the end of last year, despite tough economic times, the foundation had raised nearly \$400 million total. But the real heavy lifting may just be beginning.

After lobbying successfully for a Texas state constitutional amendment to provide \$3 billion for cancer research over a 10-year period, Armstrong now has his sights set on California. This summer, he'll work with legislators there to draw up and put on the ballot a measure mandating a cigarette tax with the proceeds to fund further research. Come September, Armstrong will also plead his case before a United Nations General Assembly special session on non-communicable diseases that he provided much of the impetus for.

"We knew we'd be able to have some impact, but we

didn't know we'd pick up so much momentum," he said.

That's how Armstrong broke through nearly every barrier the sport had erected over a century and more - by leading with his chin. He spilled blood on the roads, came back from crashes and more than once, crossed the finish line of a stage race draped over his handlebars like a man hanging on for life instead of an unbreakable machine.

One thing that never changed, though, was how Armstrong's withering gaze controlled the pack of riders around him. He doled out favors, like stage wins, or withheld them as the mood struck him. He could command the peloton to speed up to chase a breakaway rider or slow down with an ease the old-time cycling bosses—respectfully called patrons—would have envied.

That was just one reason Armstrong leaves the sport with nearly as many enemies as friends.

"A lot of that has been over-analyzed and inaccurately portrayed, but it's part and parcel of cycling. It's how cycling operates," Armstrong said. "There's too much infighting, jealousy and bitterness within the sport, so everybody tries to pick apart a person or a spectacular performance."

"And some of it," he added, "we bring on ourselves."

Cycling made Armstrong wealthy several times over, and many of the sponsors he brought into the sport continue to use him as a pitchman. A second career in politics someday does not seem out of the question.

"I don't think so. I get asked that question a lot. It's a job. It's probably many times a thankless job. ... If I were to run for any kind of office, it's impossible or very difficult to run right down the middle," he said.

"I would have to immediately alienate half of our constituents: 'Wait a minute, we thought this guy was a Republican. Wait a minute, we thought he was a Democrat.' I think the effect there would be a negative effect for the foundation. For now, absolutely not on my radar."

Armstrong will be at this year's tour, bringing the oldest of his five kids, 11-year-old Luke, back to the race this summer. He may even climb into a team car to do reconnaissance work for some of the Radio Shack riders he used to race alongside.

One thing Armstrong vowed not to do was spend much time reliving his accomplishments on the bike.

"In 10 years time," he said, "if I'm sitting around saying, 'I was so strong on L'Alpe d'Huez in 2001,' then I got a problem."



Armstrong





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# Publicity for Saipan Marathon picks up steam



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The 6th Annual Saipan Marathon will be held on March 5 beginning at Finisher's Road in the American Memorial Park in Garapan.



International publicity for the 6th Annual Saipan Marathon on March 5 is reaching new levels as Japan's Yomiuri Television shoots a pre-event program this month in this resort destination.

Popular Japanese comedian and event participant Kanpei Hazama was on Saipan last week to film a 54-minute pre-

liminary inspection of the island and the marathon course. The show will air this Saturday, Feb. 19, to an estimated two million viewers in Japan and will bring the Northern Marianas nearly \$9.7 million in ad exposure.

"The publicity wheel has been steadily gaining speed through our outreach work in Japan over the last several months," said MVA marketing manager Bruce Bateman. "By far, the sixth

staging of the Saipan Marathon is going to have the largest ad exposure impact yet for the Northern Marianas."

The "Kanpei Hazama Earth Marathon" project ties the marathon to both Hazama and the prestigious Earth Marathon series based in Japan. Several other celebrities will be joining Hazama in the race, and several companies that sponsor the Earth Marathon have also stepped for-

ward to sponsor this year's Saipan Marathon. In all, four television stations and three publications will be on Saipan on March 5 to cover the event.

The Saipan Marathon features a full marathon (26.2 miles/42.195 kilometers), a half marathon (13.1m/21.1km), and a 10-kilometer (6m) run.

The final registration deadline for the marathon is this Friday, Feb. 18, and approximately 750

runners have already registered.

The event will award first through sixth place finishes for both males and females in all three races.

Awards will also be given in eight age divisions for the top male and female in the 14-and-under, 15-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, and 70-and-up categories.

Entrance fee for the full marathon after Feb. 10 is \$110 International/U.S./Guam and \$65 CNMI. Entrance fees for the half marathon and 10K is

\$80 International/U.S./Guam and \$55 CNMI.

A valid CNMI Driver's License or ID is required to establish proof of residency. Registration forms may be submitted to the MVA office. Registration will not be accepted after the registration deadline at 5pm this Friday, Feb. 18.

For more information, visit the MVA website at [www.mymarianas.com](http://www.mymarianas.com), or contact Ed Diaz of the MVA at 664-3200/01 or [ediaz@mymarianas.com](mailto:ediaz@mymarianas.com). (MVA)

## Girls v-ball, soccer playoffs this weekend



WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND

The 2010-2011 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization girls volleyball, left, and soccer leagues' playoffs are set this weekend at the Marianas High School Gymnasium and Oleai Sports Complex field, respectively.

By **WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND**  
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REPORTER

The post season of both the volleyball and soccer leagues of the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization will start this weekend.

In the MISO Girls Soccer League, Marianas High School 2 nailed the top seed after finishing the regular season with a 3-0-3 win-loss-draw record. Kagman High School got the No. 2 spot for the playoffs with its 3-1-2 card, while Tinian High School received an automatic third seed.

MHS 1, with its 1-2-2 record, will be the fourth seed, while Saipan Southern High School brings up the rear 1-4-1 card.

Matches start today at the Oleai Sports Complex field between KHS Lady Ayuyus and Southern Lady Manta Rays

at 2pm followed by Game 2 featuring THS Stallions and MHS 1 Lady Dolphins at 3:15pm. MHS 2 then takes on the winner of the THS-MHS 1 at 4pm. The rest of the double-elimination playoffs continue to Saturday with the finals expected to start at 4pm.

MHS 2 earned a round one bye in the double-elimination tournament for finishing atop the regular season standings. Games ending in a tie will be decided by a 10-minute sudden death overtime period. If still tied, teams will be allotted five penalty kicks apiece and then go one for one until there is a winner.

In the MISO Girls Volleyball League, Saipan International School was awarded top seed and a first round bye in the double-elimination tourney for

finishing the 10-match regular season undefeated.

MHS 1 received the second seed for its 7-3 record. THS was awarded an automatic third seed in the tournament. Grace Christian Academy finished its season with a 6-4 card and is ranked fourth in the seeding.

Fifth-ranked Southern managed a 4-6 record and sixth-seeded KHS holds a record of 3-7.

Game point for the tournament is set at 25 with a cap of 30 in the first two matches with the final match set at 15 with no cap. The first team to win two sets wins; the final set will only be played if necessary.

Games start at 2pm today at the MHS Gym with MHS 1 taking on sister team MHS 2 on the north court, while the Lady

Manta Rays square off against GCA on the south side.

Then at 3:30pm KHS welcomes THS into the competition on the north end, while the winner of the opening south side matchup stays on the court to face SIS.

At 5pm the two north court winners tip off against each other to complete the first round of competition.

At the same time on the south court the next match will feature the losers of the MHS 1-MHS 2 and Southern-GCA games for the tourney's first elimination match.

The double-elimination playoffs continue on Saturday with the finals scheduled to tip off at 2:30pm.

For more information, contact MISO acting president Nick Gross at 287-4767 or email [nickgross07@gmail.com](mailto:nickgross07@gmail.com).

## Test Your 10K Fun Run Saturday



All is set for this Saturday's Test Your 10K Fun Run.

Registration begins at 5am, while the race starts at 6:30am with runners leaving the side entrance of Hyatt Regency Saipan's Club Elan in Micro Beach, going to Beach Road up to Hakubotan for the turnaround, and back to the startling point.

The race is a team event with each squad having two runners. Both runners will do the 10K run and their times will be combined to determine the race's winners. The organizing 670 Hoopaholics will award prizes to the Top 5 finishers. Entrance fee is \$30 per team.

Prizes include cellphones

from NTT Docomo Pacific and Trench Tech gift certificates for first and second placers; Gold's Gym membership certificate and Saipan Grand Hotel brunch certificate, and Trench Tech gift certificates for third placer; PIC water park passes for two and Trench Tech gift certificates for fourth placers; and movie passes and McDonald coupons for fifth placers.

Motorists along Beach Road are advised to take extra caution from 6:30am to 8:30am.

The weekend race is supported by NTT Docomo Pacific, Gold's Gym, Trench Tech Inc., Tan Holdings, D&Q, Saipan Grand Hotel, PIC, McDonald's, Hollywood Theaters, and Hyatt Regency Saipan. (Roselyn B. Monroyo)

## February roll-offs this weekend



Saipan Bowling Association will have a slight change in the schedule of the

February Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes Tournament.

Instead of the usual Sunday and Monday roll-offs, SBA will have its February tournament this Saturday and Sunday. The Prince of the Lanes will still take place on Sunday.

The association decided to hold the first day of the two-day roll-offs for adult keggers this Saturday, as SBA had already completed the Saturday Night League. Then moving the sec-

ond day of the event from Monday to Sunday will allow SBA to go ahead with the Monday Night League.

As usual, participants in the King and Queen roll-offs can bowl on both days, but only the higher score will be counted to determine the winners of the February titles. Only the first 60 bowlers to register will be accepted in the men's division and prizes will depend on the number of entries. The women's division will have prizes if at least 10 keggers compete.

For more information, contact Gigi or Ross Zapanta at 288-5627. (SBA)





Cavaliers average  
55-point defeat  
against Lakers

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# Saipan Tribune Sports



Publicity for Saipan  
Marathon picks up steam

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## NMASA fetes 2010 top athletes



2010 Tan Siu Lin Foundation/NMASA Student Athletes of the Year Liamwar Rangamar and Christian Miller pose with TSL Foundation president Jerry Tan during the awards presentation in the 2010 NMASA Annual Sports Banquet last night at the Saipan Grand Hotel.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



CNMI Hall of Fame inductee Tino Olopai, fourth from left, and 2010 Coach of the Year Tony Rogolofoi pose with friends and family members during the 2010 NMASA Annual Sports Banquet last night at the Saipan Grand Hotel.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

### »Rogolofoi, Olopai also honored in sports banquet

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

**M**icronesia's fastest woman Yvonne Bennett and bemedaled swimmer Rezne Wong had been out of the local sports scene for quite some time, but their outstanding performances last year were never forgotten as the CNMI named them the 2010 NMASA Female and Male Athletes of the Year.

Bennett, who has been off-island for more than half a year now, studying at Boise State University, was given the coveted plum during last night's 2010 Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association Annual Sports Banquet at the Saipan Grand Hotel.

Her father, Ambrose, was present to receive the sprinter's award.



"I can't wait to tell Yvonne she won the award again. She was very excited to hear who will the winners be and somehow, she was hoping she takes this award," the older Bennett said.

It was Bennett's third straight time to win the prestigious individual plum. The 20-year-old runner got

See NMASA on Page 34

### 13 complete referee clinic



Guam Football Association referee instructor and referee committee vice chair George Stewart demonstrates warm-up drills to participants of a referee clinic held early this month at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER



Thirteen referees were certified after completing Northern Mariana Islands Football Association's Referee 3 Clinic.

The list includes Jerish Angeles, Dan Wollack, Megan Herber, Ben Wood, Dale Roberts, Darren Keizer, J.R. Jacinto, Colin Fruit, Adam Whitty, Joseph Elger, Vanessa Pritchard, Dan Stafford, and Glenn Smith.

Guam Football Association referee instructor and referee committee vice chair George Stewart conducted the training held from Jan. 28 to 20 and from Feb 4 to 6. Training sessions focused both on theoretical and practical parts of refereeing a match. Participants attended the

### IP&E Konflikt stretches streak to five

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

IP&E Konflikt extended its winning run to five, following a 63-57 victory over IT&E Fundamentalists in the second game in the 2nd Docomo Pacific/UBA Proa. IT&E Fundamentalists Men's League on Wednesday

night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

IP&E Konflikt now shares the second spot with Mobil, as they hold identical 5-1 records, half a game behind the undefeated and league-leading NMC

See IP&E on Page 34



IP&E Konflikt's Ivan De Vero bangs into the defense of IT&E Fundamentalists' Tiger Lee during their game in the UBA/Docomo caging on Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO